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Oregon Archives.

Letters, Reports, Messages,

Memorials, and Other

Papers.

Not Published

in The

Office of the Secretary of

State.

Salem

1878

Letters and Reports published in the Oregon Archives:

Page 255 — Resolution requiring report of Supt. Indian Affairs.
" 317 Answered by Gov. Abernethy, also report, both dated Feb. 10. 1844.

Papers

Relating to the War with the Cayuse Indians.

Page 321. Letter from James Douglas. Dec. 7 1847.
" 322 " addressed to Douglas & Lee Commissioners
" 323 " " & Citizen of Oregon.
" 325 " " " Commissioners & Nez Perces Indians
" 326 Adj. Gen'l's Report.
" 327 Com. of Indian Affairs Report. A.
" 328 " " " " B.
" 330 Adjutant Gen. Report.
" 332 Lee Commissioners Report.

Letters published in Gray's History.

Page 519 Letter from Wm. McBean dated Nov. 30, 1847.
" 525 " " Jas. Douglas " Dec. 9, "
" 530 " " A. Hinman " " 4 "
" 543 Memorial to Congress
" 549 (Chap. 62) Letter from H. A. S. Lee. " "
" 552 P. L. Ogden Letter.
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555 Douglas reply to Gov. Abernethy.
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Page 565 - Letter from Douglas & Abernethy

" 566 " " " McBean & Comm.

" 568 " " " Mayer & Surveying. & letter

" 571 Ladies of Oregon formed auxiliaries

" 584 Letter from A.L. Rogers.

" 194 Petition of 1840.

" 292 " " Citizens 1843.

" 409 Address of J. McLaughlin and Jas Douglas.

" 410 Letter of John McLoughlin but dated March 11th instead of March 18th

" 411 Ex. Comm. reply, dated March 22d instead 21st, March 12th 1845 - Dr McLoughlin wrote that Williamson had given up his claim so that there was no cause for complaint.

Miscellaneous.

Letter from A. Bliss in regard to the death of Lieut. LeBreton.

Organization of the first Company of Arizona Rangers.

Commission of Capt. T. D. Keyes.

Letter from " " " "

Mission Farm, March 16, 1844

Wm. O. Russell,

Sir:— It is with painful feelings that I take my pen to write you in reference to the melancholy transaction of the 4th of March. I regret very much that Dr McLaughlin took the steps as report (and I believe I am officially informed), says he did in his ~~ex~~ party ~~dec~~ decision made at the Falls.

As such report has sounded out from such authority implicating our citizens as murderers of the Indian killed &c. I feel call upon to act in my official capacity and in concert with my colleagues in the Executive Department, to see that the laws are executed, honored and respected.

As some of our citizens are charged with murdering an Indian in the broad light of the sun, and in the streets of our metropolis, I cannot let it pass over without an investigation; for this good reason: If we allow such atrocious conduct to pass, we ought to be branded with infamy. But if our citizens were doing their duty in trying to arrest an assassin and a villian, our citizens should be cleared ~~of~~ from such a foul slander, and justice to the friends of Mr. LeBreton demands at our hands that we pro-

test his enemy and justify his conduct on that to him, awful occasion; and that we consider he fell a patriot for the cause of the Colony. The idea must be hooted out of countenance, that we allow Indians murdered and pay for it with blankets.

The Indians must be taught this lesson: That we will not allow them to kill our citizens, and then pay for it, and that we will not allow white men to kill them without cause by paying for it.

You will therefor take the steps the law prescribes and arest those persons concerned in the affray with the Indian killed, and bring them to trial before you as Judge, to answer to the charge made against them for the murder of the Indian.

You will please cite Dr. White to appear before you in order that he may vindicat his doings in the premises. If his reasons were good, and the case demanded his attention, who will say he had no right to take such measures as were taken in the premises.

I hope you will go straight ahead and I will sustain you with 30 mounted riflemen if need be, as Crocket says "first know you are right and then go ahead."

Please write me the first opportunity

and let me know how business progresses. I would say to you and you will please inform Eryan's Hill, that a Secretary must be appointed and I would nominate Wm H. Wilson, & if you and Jn. Hill will fill it by some other person, you have my consent.

Hereof fail not and returns make as the law directs.

A. Beers } Executive Committee.

Articles of Enlistment for the Oregon Rangers

Preamble.

Self defence, the protection of property and life, being one of the first laws of nature, and enforced by all laws, both human and Divine, The undersigned deem it important and indispensibly necessary to enter into a Compact for our mutual protection against all dangers to which we are, and may be exposed, while residents of Oregon, To be governed by the following articles of Compact and agreement, to wit:

Article 1st. This body shall be called the Oregon Rangers and shall have power to enlist as many men to act in defence of the lives and property of the citizens, as shall from time to time be deemed requisite, and also to call the same into active service in time of danger, invasion or Indian depredations, by order of any Commissioned officer of this body, or of any one or more of the Executive or Legislative Committee, of the Territory in all cases of danger to the lives or property of any of the citizens, by public proclamation or otherwise.

Article 2d As soon as twelve men shall be

enlisted, they shall be entitled to elect a Captain, Lieutenant, and Ensign, with such other officers as the Company may deem requisite.

Article 3d. The Company when organized shall meet at the place designated by the Captain, or in his absence the next in Command, as often as shall be deemed necessary by the Legislative or Executive Committee of the government, and also muster all the commissioned officers if deemed proper once a month, for inspection and Military service.

Article 4th. Each man shall be equipped with a good rifle and accoutrements, and mounted upon a good horse, with the necessary appendages for traveling; and shall be entitled to receive for each days meeting for Company duty $1, per day, and for each day in actual service in case of invasion or pursuit of Indians, $2 per day, and shall forfeit twice the amount per day to the Company for non-attendance. All such forfeitures may be collected by civil suit, attachment and sale of property as by law provided.

Article 5th. The officers of this Company shall receive a charter from the Colonial Government, which shall allow them to increase the number of Companies to any

number that may be deemed necessary for the protection of the lives and property of all the citizens of Oregon,

Signed

Thos D. Keizer,
R. James Caem,
Ivor C. Hutchens,
Richard H. Elkin,
Peter Brainard,
Nathan Sitton,
William Delaney
Jas. M. Patterson,
John Edmonds,
Nicholas Ford,
W.m Martin,
Jas. Martin,
W.m Henry
J. L. Morrison,
Charles P. Matt,
Webley Hamphurst,
Johan Andersons,
Joel Turnham,
J. M. Garrison,
Joseph Holman,
John Ford,
Chas. E. Pickett
John B. Keizer,
Daniel Waldo,
Lyndsey Applegate,
Gray.

I hereby certify that the persons named above enlisted agreable to the Articles hereunto annexed, (and) are armed and equipped and ready for Action

Given under my hand this 16th day of March, A.D. 1844.

Thomas D Keizer
Commandant of the Oregon Rangers.

Captain Keizer's Commission.

To the People of the Territory of Oregon.

To all to whom these presents shall come:

Know Ye. That pursuant to the Constitution and laws of our said Territory. We have appointed and constituted, and by these presents do appoint and constitute T. D. Keizer, Captain of the first Volunteer Company of Rangers of said Territory; with rank from April 8th 1844, to hold the said office in the manner specified in and by our said Constitution and laws.

In testimony whereof, we have caused our seal for Military Commissions to be hereunto affixed.

Witness D. Hill,
J. Gale, } Executive Committee.
A. Bers,

of said Territory and Commanders-in-chief of all the Militia and Volunteer companies of said Territory.

Dated at the Willamette Falls, the 8th of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and forty-four.

Attest C. Johnson
Secretary.

L. S.

Oregon Territory,
Champoeg District,
April 29, 1844.

To his Excellency
A. Burnett— Dear Sir.— In accordance to your proclamation, March 4th, the undersigned succeeded in enlisting 26 mounted men, and this, our third company drill, and in behalf of the Company, we take the liberty of asking the following questions: Was there any cause for raising these troops? And is there any need of these troops? Knowing their chartered limits, and their discretionary powers; recollecting we are to be called out at the instance of any one of the Commissioned officers; or at the instance of the Executive or Legislative Committee, Where is our Chartered liberties of drawing on your Military stores and depositories for ammunitions and provisions? Or where is our liberty of making out pay rolls and drawing on the treasury? If we have the chartered liberties that have been effected, signed by the proper officers, with the seal of the Territory,— while we keep in the bounds of that Charter, we have to assume no responsibilities. And if we have to assume responsibilities on our own expences, we have too much patriotism pride & honor made more merit soldiers, Giving the hands

of the great Earl Cruiket, "Those that fight on their own expense and their own responsibilities have enough to do to fight their own battles," commissions not excepted.

(Signed) Thomas D. Keyes,
J. L. Morrison,
Peter Brainard.

There is evident misunderstanding here, but the minds does not state what was the action in the premises by the Executive Committee. The Company was raised by proclamation of Messrs Rees, one of the Exc. Com. at the time of the election of Sir. Le Breton, and the excitement was allayed by Dr. John McLoughlin, and the citizens who composed the company could not upon the time to drill from time to month, without some compensation, and then was no funds in the Provisional Government treasury at that time. This information I obtained from a member of the company, who was elected to one about a year since.

J. Henry Brown

Messages Not Published in Oregon Archives.

No 1. Message of — Executive Committee June 1845
" 3. " " Gov. Abernethy Dec. 1845

Message of Executive Committee

Dated June 18, 1844, referred to on Page 32, Oregon Archives.

Message.

To the Honorable, the Legislative Assembly of Oregon Territory.

Gentlemen:

As a rising Colony, under no immediate external control or civil protection we have abundant reason for rendering up our thanks to the Great Ruler of the Universe for His parental Care and protection over us, from the first entrance into this country, unto the present day. And it becomes us humbly to acknowledge our dependance on Him, as our protector and preserver, and implore a continuance of his Care and watchfulness over us, and wisdom to direct us in the discharge of the duties devolving upon us.

This country has been populated by powerful Indian tribes, but it has pleased the Great Disposer of human events to re

duce them to a mere shadows of their form
greatness. Thus removing the chief obstacle
to the entrance of civilization, and opening
a way for the introduction of Christi-
anity where ignorance and idolatry
have reigned uncontrolled for many
ages.

There has been perhaps few colonies planted on
North America, under the same circumstance
in which the present settlers of this Territory
are placed; they are situated in a portion
of country remote from civilized nations,
among the few remaining savages who are
the original proprietors of the soil. The Country
is claimed by two powerful, civilized and
enlightened nations, proud of their nation-
al liberties, and jealous of their respec-
tive rights and privileges.

It is obvious that these claims must be
adjusted and the soil purchased from the
original proprietors, previous to any right
being conferred upon the citizens of these
governments, relative to the cultivation
of lands in this Territory.

The government of Great Britain, has
never publicly extended her claim as

far south as to include the lands now under cultivation in this Colony. But a treaty now exists between that government and the United States, giving to either party the right of mutual occupancy of this Territory in relation to the Indian trade. The United States have held out inducements to their citizens and indirectly encouraged the settlement of this country by them. Consequently, we are now improving the country by their consent, but without their protection. And it is self-evident that every community have a right to make laws for their mutual benefit and protection where no laws exist.

It was under these impressions that the settlers in this Territory established a form of government last year, and adopted such rules and regulations as were at that time deemed necessary for the protection and prosperity of the Colony.

These regulations were so constructed as to be altered or amended by a Legislative Assembly, whose members were to be chosen by the people annually; until such time as the government of the United States shall extend their jurisdiction over the Territory.

At the time of our organization, it was expected that the United States would have taken possession of the country before this time but a year has rolled around, and there appears little or no prospect of aid from that quarter, consequently we are yet left on our own resources for protection.

In view of the present state of affairs, Gentlemen of the Assembly, we would recommend to your consideration the adoption of some measure for a more thorough organization.

Also to take into consideration the propriety of levying a light tax for the support of government.

We would also recommend to your consideration the propriety of vesting the executive power in one person.

And the impropriety of vesting the powers of Supreme, Probate and District Judge in one person, the necessity of having an individual judge for each Court.

We would recommend that such of the laws of Iowa, as have been or may be adopted, be so amended, as to suit the circumstances of the country.

That the Militia Law be so amended that military officers hold their Commissions during good behavior, and that each company shall have the privilege of electing their own officers at such time and place as they shall think fit, excepting the days of drill reviews. And that such portions of the Militia Law of Iowa, be adopted as will suit all the circumstances of our Military organization.

We would recommend that the first article of the Land Law be amended, so as to require that some permanent improvement be made on claims before recording. And that such improvements be designated on record, with such other regulations relative to land claims as in the opinion of this Assembly will be most beneficial to the interests of the public.

We would recommend that the fourth Article of the Land Law, be repealed, as it is considered detrimental to the interests of the Community.

We would recommend that Commissioners be appointed to locate roads

in such places as this Assembly shall deem necessary for the interest of the public. also that a law be enacted for the purpose of establishing ferries at different thoroughfares crossing the Willamette river.

We recommend the encouragement of the means of education as far as our limited circumstances will allow.

We would also recommend that the laws of Iowa be taken into matured consideration concerning <u>blacks</u> and <u>mulattoes</u>, and that a law be enacted for the punishment of offenders inciting the Indians against the whites. And legislating the intercourse of the whites among the Indians in this Colony.

And that provisions be made for the erection of a jail. And such other measures as shall be best calculated to secure the peace and happiness of the people.

And in conclusion we desire to impress upon your minds, the important ~~fact~~ that although this Colony is small, and its resources feible, yet the life, rights and

liberties of an individual here, are of equa
value to him, as to one in the City of Washing-
ton or London.

And it is a duty which devolves on yo
and to us, to use as much discretion,
vigilance and caution in maturing
and adopting measures for promoting
the interests of this little Colony, as if we
expected our names and acts would
be enrolled in the pages of history, o
inscribed on pillars of stone, when
our days and generation shall have
passed away.

(Signed) P. S. Stewart,
Willamette Falls, A. Russell,
June 18, 1844. W. J. Baily,

Executive
Committee

The next Message dated December 16,
1844, is published in the Oregon Archives
on page 56.

On page 124 of Archives will be found a
notice of the following Message of Gov. Abernethy.

Governor's Message.

To the Honorable, the Legislative Assembly of Oregon:

Fellow Citizens,

Allow me to congratulate you on your return to this place again to enter on the important duties assigned you by your constituents.

By the latest dates we have from the United States, we are informed that the affairs of Oregon, still remain unsettled, no arrangements having as yet been entered into between the United States and Great Britain fixing the boundary lines between the two governments.

In my last Message, I suggested several alterations in the Militia law, and would again call your attention to the subject. At present all is peace and quietness, but should anything occur requiring the aid of the Militia, everything should be ready for immediate and prompt action.

The currency is another subject on which you will be called to act. That a legal tender should be provided for the payment of [illegible]

bilities, besides gold and silver, we are all well aware. The precious metals are very scarce in this country, and by most persons not to be had. What shall be the legal tenders is an important question for you to decide. If all the articles, produced and manufactured in the country are made legal tenders, no person will sell anything he has to dispose of, unless there is a special contract drawn up, disregarding law, and in what manner the seller is to receive his pay. This will cause much inconvenience to both parties. Wheat in my opinion should be the only article used in this country as a legal tender in addition to gold and silver, it is at present the staple article of our country, can be produced by all the settlers in abundance; can be readily disposed of by the Merchant and others, and is not a perishable article. The next question is when shall the article or articles made a legal tender be delivered? If the debtor is allowed the privilege of delivering wheat at any point on the navigable rivers and thereby discharg

ing his debts, it will throw all the trouble of get-
ting it to market on the receiver, this should
not be, the trouble should devolve on the one who
by delivering his produce, is relieved from his lia-
bility. Oregon City is at present the business
place, and for the convenience of all parties
would in my opinion be the best depot for a
country. Other articles and other places of
depsit can be agreed upon between parties
who are transacting business together. Our
business is to provide for a man who being
in debt to another, is pressed for silver, and
informed that nothing else will answer in
payment; we must in some way provide
to relieve him from this difficulty, but in
doing this, we should be cautious not to
leave the door too wide open, for in doing so we
may break down all confidence, and do
more injury than good.

We are visited occasionally by vessels for
trade and other purposes, I think it would
be well to have an officer appointed to reside
at the mouth of the (Columbia) river, to whose duty
it should be on the arrival of any vessel, to
board her, and deliver to the Captain a copy of

of the law relating to the sale, &c., of ardent spirits. Many Complaints have come from the residents at the mouth of the river, stating that spirituous liquors have been distributed among the Indians from different Vessels, causing much excitement among them Indians, and in one case bloshed between two parties of them. It cannot be expected that a stranger on his arrival should be acquainted with the law on this subject, and he may deal out to Indians and others enough to do a great deal of mischief, before he becomes acquainted with it, unless some steps are taken by you to inform him. The officer so appointed could inform the proper authorities, should the Captain then persist in selling liquor, and the necessary steps to enforce the law could then be taken.

There should be a sealer of weights and Measures appointed, and no weights or measures used in the Colony, excepting such as are stamped by him. By this means a uniformity in our weights and Measures would be brought about, and one source of Complaint removed.

The boundary lines between some of the districts have not been defined, and persons living near the borders of such districts do not really know in which district they reside I would call your attention to this subject that you may examine into it, and define the boundary lines.

It will be necessary to decide upon and locate the seat of government the present session, I would recommend that a committee be appointed by your Body at an early day to take this matter into consideration.

A large emigration has this year crossed the Rocky Mountains, and the individuals who composed it are now in our midst and make one with us, after passing through many scenes of difficulty and privations. There has been more suffering than usual among the emigrants the present season perhaps in some measure owing to the largeness of the party, which numbered over 2,000 persons, But principally in an attempt made by some of them to shorten the way; they failed in this object, and

many of them perished in consequence of the difficulties they encountered, encumbered as they were with their families and cattle in an untried route. Something should be done by us to facilitate the arrival of emigrants among us. Nearly all the difficulties they encounter occur between Walla Walla and the settlements, and perhaps I may bring it still nearer and say between The Dalles and this place. If there can be a remedy provided for this, it should be done at once, and an easy and safe conveyance provided for the emigrant who may hereafter seek a make this land his home. Two plans have suggested themselves to me, one is to employ one or more of the old settlers who profess to be acquainted with the pass, looking through the mountains from Fort Boise, or thereabouts to the upper settlements in the Willamette to take charge of a party, whose duty it shall be to examine the route, mark it out, and report to a committee appointed by you. All the particulars of the route should be carefully noted down, particularly the distances between camps where water can be procured, and the quality of the water; together with the quantity of grass

that it may be on the route, whether there are any seriously diseases to cross that would be difficult for cattle to pass over for want of water and proper food.

The other plan is to complete the road that has been commenced by Jno. Barlow and others south of Mount Hood. Either of these plans will require funds, and I would recommend that a Committee be appointed by you, whose duty it shall be to enquire into the feasibility of either of the plans and to obtain subscriptions from the settlers of the Colony to carry the one fixed upon into operation, the amount required, I have no doubt can easily be raised.

I have made the following appointment during the recess of the Legislature; Wm. H. Wilson, First Judge, for the District of Champoeg, in place of E. E. Parrish who refused to accept the appointment, Robert Moore, Judge for the Tualaty District, in place of A. Higgins resigned. There is a Vacancy in the Clatsop District occasioned by the refusal of R. Shorters to accept the office of

Judge of that District. I have left the office before by you. x x x Hon. Jesse Applegate resigned his seat in your Body.

I am happy to say that the emigrant who have come in this year appear well pleased with the regulations we have entered into for our government and mutual protection, and express themselves as willing to be found on the rise of law. I cannot close without uniting with you in expression of gratitude to that Being who has so graciously protected our infant Colony, Preserved from war with the savages that surround us, and from internal commotion, and enjoying all the blessings that health can bestow, we may truly say that we are a favored people, and I trust that we may continue to merit the Divine favor, by acknowledging our dependance on him, and endeavoring to keep His law in view while making laws for our government.

(Signed) Sam. Thurston.

Oregon City
Dec. 2nd, 1845.

Governor's Message *

August 5th 1845.

No. 2.

* This is the Message referred to on page 91 Oregon Archives.

To the Honorable, the Legislative Assembly of Oregon.

Gentlemen:

The principal cause of the adjournment of the body, from July last, was to place before the people the original Organic Law, together with the amended Organic Law, that they might decide which should be the foundation for a code of laws, to govern us until such time as the United States of America extend their jurisdiction over us. I have now the honor to inform you that the Organic Law, as amended by your honorable body has been adopted by the citizens of this Territory, and it therefore devolves on you to revise, alter and amend, the laws heretofore passed, that they may accord with the Organic Law; and to frame such other laws as in your wisdom may be deemed necessary for the safety and protection of the people.

The past year has proved that the revenue is insufficient to meet the expenses of the government, and while I would recommend that strict economy should guide the Legislature in their appropriations, I would also

recommend as one means of increasing the reve-
nue, that improved farms be taxed in proportio
to the value of the improvements. At present the
farmer who depends principally upon his stock
as a means of support is taxed, while the pro-
ducer pays nothing into the treasury. There is
no doubt, but this tax will be paid cheerfully
by the farmers, if the appropriations are mad
for the general welfare of the community, per-
haps this may be found sufficient to meet the
necessary expenses without increasing the per
centage.

The Executive Committee at the opening of th
session last July, in their message to your
honorable body, earnestly recommended
"that the law requiring two sessions of the
Court to be held in each county, be amended
so as to require only two, or at most three
sessions during the year in the whole colony.
You can carefully examine this matter and
make such alterations in the Judiciary Depart-
ment as will constitute the operations of the
Courts, and economise the expenses.

There will be a great deal of litigation
in this country, arising from the facilities

of obtaining credit which prevails throughout the Colony. In order to prevent this in some measure, I would recommend the passage of a law which would prevent all debts or notes taken for debts, (except where fraud is alleged), contracted after the passage of such law, from being collected by judicial process. This would save much time and trouble to the Courts. Persons would be more careful in disposing of their property, and those who came under obligations to others, in my opinion would be more punctual in their payments, knowing if they did not meet their obligations when they became due, they would receive no more favors; allowances would be made for a man who should meet with misfortune, but the man who was able to pay and would not, by the passage of such a law, would soon become known throughout the Colony.

I would recommend that the 4th Section of the Military Law, by which the qualified voters of the several districts elect the field officers annually, be amended, as that the field officers be elected by the Company officers of the regiment of which he is to command be attached to, the senior officer of the regi-

ment to preside at the election, and make the returns to the Commander-in-chief. Officers to hold their Commissions until their resignations are accepted, unless expelled by a Court Martial for misdemeanor. Also that the 6th section be so amended that instead of the Military being ordered out for Martial exercise two days in each year, one day only be required, principally for inspection. And that the 5th section be amended so as to make it the duty of every man to appear on the ground armed and equipped: The last amendment is very necessary, Surrounded as we are by savage tribes, every man in the Colony should be provided with the means of defence.

Should you amend the above section, it will be necessary to amend the other sections to make them correspond. Experience has fully proved that two or three days spent in Martial exercises every year, are insufficient for instruction in Military manoeuvres, consequently any time spent, more than is requisite for inspection, would be a heavy and unnecessary tax upon the citizens of Guyana. Officers drills should be increased, - and as an inducement to officers to drill often, and be punctual, it

would be well to limit their time of service to six years, after which time, they should be exempt from Military duty, except in case of an invasion.

There is nothing that more surely advances the prosperity of any country, than numerous school houses well filled during the week days, and a strict observance of the Sabbath. I would recommend that school districts be formed and the means of education be placed within the reach of every family. The inhabitants residing within the bounds of a school district should be required to meet, select a site for a school house, and build ~~at~~ one at the expense of the district. The cost to each individual would be but trifling, teachers would soon be found to occupy the different houses and dispense the blessings of education to the children around them.

Our late information from the United States, leaves the question of the boundary line between the United States and Great Britain still undecided, the question was agitated during the last Congress, and we have every reason to believe

judging from the inaugural address of President Polk, and the disposition prevailing in the United States with regard to this country, that the jurisdiction of the United States will be speedily extended over us.

Through the mercy and goodness of the Divine Being, we are blessed again with a plentiful harvest. Agriculture, the first and most important occupation of man, has abundantly rewarded the labors of the husbandman. Health dwells in the land and peace surrounds us. May we show our gratitude to Him who bestows all these mercies, by bearing in mind through all our acts, that we are dependent on Him, and may our prayers continually ascend to Him, for wisdom to guide us in the important duties to which we are called.

(Signed) Geo. Abernethy

Oregon City, 5th August 1845.

To the Citizens of the United States.

~~Wrote by Hon. Jesse Applegate.~~

About 1845.

Written by W. H. Gray, as shown by the Oregon Archives, pp. 127, 133, 136 & 141.

To the Citizens of the United States.

Friends and Fellow Citizens:

We the settlers of Oregon, deem it of vital importance to you, as well as to themselves that you should receive correct information relative to the climate, soil, productions, advantages and disadvantages, facilities and difficulties attending a journey to, and a residence in this Country.

Our statements, owing to the nature of our communication must be brief.

Our object is to give a plain statement of facts as they now exist.

The climate is mild and healthy, subject to from three to four months wet and rainy weather, with occasional sleet and snow; and some winters hard frosts, sufficient to create considerable ice in the larger streams.

The soil is of every variety, producing from 50 to 80 bushels of the best wheat per acre, to such (in some parts of the interior) as will produce scarcely any, this of the Vegetable kind.

The productions are much the same as

of the eastern and middle States, of a superior quality.

The timber in the Willamette Valley is principally the white and red fir, oak, spruce, cedar, maple and ash, and also found in the valleys and in other portions of the country.

The face of the country is undulating, rising from level plains and rolling prairies to mountains covered with perpetual snows. The plains and larger prairies are interspersed with small groves of timber and many small streams, having the appearance of large pastures, without hedge or fence, except in the settled portions of the country. The prairies are occupied with cattle, horses and sheep, and domestic animals feeding in good pastures the whole year. The grass starting fresh in the spring and fall, affording pasturage for animals, and requiring but little care from them.

The government is Provisional, based upon Republican principles, securing and protecting every male citizen over 18 years of age, in the peaceful right to hold and occupy one section or 640 acres of land, allowing the person of making his own choice of

any in the country that is not already taken and occupied.

Advantages of the country are; proximity to the Pacific ocean, good harbors at the mouth of the Columbia, and at Nesqually, a healthy climate, good soil and timber, good and equitable laws and when compared with the eastern and Middle States, a level country, good navigable rivers, abundance of water powers,

Our disadvantages are;—Distance from the civilized world, a difficult route over from 12 to 150 miles of the last part of the journey to this country. The want of a suitable engine for a steamboat to assist in and out vessels on crossing off the bar at the mouth of the Columbia river. The want of vessels to transport goods and export the surplus products of the country. Materials for constructing mills and machinery for domestic manufactures. Proper roads to deliver produce upon the navigable streams. Proper vessels or steamboats to transport produce from places of delivery to places of shipment, or harbors where vessels may receive it. The want of metalic currency,— and in short disadvantages

vantages— are such as usually attend a settlement in a new country.

Facilities in getting to the country are,— the whole distance except the last 90 miles, may be accomplished with wagons and teams, and an abundant supply of grass and water for companies of 50 wagons each.

A supply of provisions may be had on arriving in the settlements sufficient to last until a crop can be produced by the emigrant.

Message
of
Executive Committee

Dated

July 24th 1845.

Referred to on page 72. Bayou Archives.

Message.

To the Honorable Legislative Committee of Oregon:

Gentlemen,

While it becomes us at all times as descendants of civilized and enlightened nations to offer up our grateful acknowledgments to the Divine Being, for his protecting care, more especially are we called upon at this time or a-lo, from the consideration of the fact that our infant Colony existing among savages, and in the midst of conflicting political interests has been blessed with peace and prosperity far beyond our most sanguine expectations.

Having had the pleasure of presenting a message at each of the two sessions of the Legislative Committee held in 1844, in which we fully expressed our views in relation to our political condition, we accordingly regret that in consequence of the absence of the Executive elect, it has become our duty now to direct your attention to such subjects as we consider important to the interest and well being of Oregon.

The assurance we feel that our agricultural

and Commercial affairs are progressing to such a favorable condition as amply to remunerate the well directed industry of our citizens, affording us great satisfaction, while the judgement with which the Legislative enactments have for the most part been framed, and the promptness with which our laws have been obeyed, encourages us to rely with confidence upon you (who have been convened by the people at this time) for the adoption of such salutary measures as our present circumstances may in wisdom to demand.

While we deem it important to invite your attention to the necessity of a revision and amendment of the Organic and other laws, that have already been adopted, and the framing of others that you may deem necessary at this time, we would not conceal the fact that great difficulty might arise from too much legislation; whereby the amicable settlement of the question under consideration by the governments of the United States and Great Britain, relative to their respective claims to Oregon, might be embarrassed.

The inadequacy of the revenue to meet

the current expenses of the government, render it necessary that increased means should be provided to pay all demands upon the treasury and to defray the unavoidable expenses of the present year.

We earnestly recommend that such a system of retrenchment should be adopted in the administration of the government, as may be thought consistent with its efficiency, especially in the Judiciary Department.

We deem it indispensible that the law requiring two sessions of the Court, be so amended as to require only two, or at most three sessions a year in the whole Colony.

We recommend the Militia Law be so amended as to permit the officers to hold their commissions during good behavior, or at least for a much longer term than one year.

The land claim law as amended at the last session of this House, we deem inefficient in some of its most important features, as not affording sufficient facilities to young men, and such as are unavoidably engaged in mechanical and other pursuits, for procuring the portion of land to which by our laws they are entitled.

For the documents necessary to give you a
apportionating the representation of the coun
ties respectively, we refer you to the enumer-
ation list in the Clerks office.

By an act passed at the last session
of this House, the Executive were authorized
and required to contract for the building
of a jail, for which purpose $1.500 was
appropriated in carrying out the provisions
of said act, $1,037 only has been expended
" The act passed the last session of this House
requiring a vote to be taken at the general
election "for or against the call of a con-
vention," has been complied with, and the
result is a majority of 93 votes against
holding a convention.

We deem it important to call your atten-
tion to the fact that sickness and disease of
a most loathsome and distressing nature
exists among the various tribes of Indians
in this Colony. And that frequent and urgent
applications are made by said Indians to a
few individuals for supplies of medicine
and medical assistance, until it has become a
heavy and insupportable tax upon private
generosity. We would therefore suggest to

you, the propriety of taking this matter into your consideration.

In conclusion, gentlemen, while the cheering prospects of a smiling and abundant harvest which is about to yield to our industrious farmers our ample remuneration for their labor, and the enjoyment of the necessaries and luxuries of refined society, we cannot refrain from expressing our regret that sectional and national prejudices should exist among us to such an extent as to endanger our community. We confidently believe however, that there is sufficient virtue and intelligence in our Colony to secure the administration of the laws of our Provisional Government until "the two stripes and bright stars," of our beloved Country's banner shall wave in triumph throughout the length and breadth of our beautiful Oregon.

(Signed) O. Russell, } Executive
P. G. Stewart, } Committee of
Oregon.

Oregon City
June 24th 1845

Memorial to Congress,
1846.

Page 175, Oregon Archives.

Letter of Senator Benton
to the
Citizens of Oregon.
1847.

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of United States. × ×

Your Memorialists, the Representatives of the people of Oregon in Legislature Assembled, do respectfully solicit that the following subjects herein contained, may claim the attention and sympathy of your honorable body.

Oregon is so situated, that it will ere long occupy an enviable position amongst the civilized portions of the world, in proof of which permit me to refer your honorable body to the report of the Committee in the U. S. Congress on Post-offices and Post-roads, April 20th 1846. Wherein are fully set forth the salubrity of its climate and the fertility of its soil, as well as the many other advantages bestowed by nature's God, on this favored portion of his earth which although 3,000 miles distant from the United States seems destined soon to become a central point of commerce and trade.

We hereby present the following statement representing the navigability of the Columbia River, so as to guard from error as to what could be furnished the many enquiring as to the same:

Bread stuffs could be supplied in large quantity and on short notice, say 5,000 barrels of flour in part in biscuit if preferred. Salt beef and pork should the demand arise, could also be prepared, say by 1st of May, 1848, 2,000 barrels of salt beef and 2,000 barrels of pork.

The above estimates of flour, particularly are guardedly moderate. Let but a market be open, and our powers would rapidly increase. Lumber can always be supplied in abundance, and tar and pitch could soon be manufactured if such should be required by the Navy. In connection with this subject, it will be proper to mention that flax and hemp have been successfully cultivated in small quantities; and could be made articles of export were encouragement offered.

Many of us have been induced to seek homes in this remote Territory, from promises held out by some action of your honorable body. Our population is of a character to be envied by older settled countries, but at the same time, we would not presume on the wisdom of Congress by saying, "give us land." Those annoyances which have overcome the difficulties of the journey

to Oregon, as well as those who first encouraged agri-
culture and civilization by their early settlements in
this country have conjointly, submit to the im-
partial judgment of your honorable body, their
claims on Government to secure them in their
homes. We however think, we have some right
to expect a grant of land, not only we ourselves
but those who may emmigrate for the next few
years. Many of us are settled under the provis-
ions of the Organic Law, which provides, that
any person is entitled to hold 640 acres of land
The claims, as we call them, are taken up in accord-
ance with the above named laws, either in a regular
or oblong form, and some portions of the country
are entirely overspread, should therefore, your hon-
orable body in its wisdom conclude to sanction or
title to these claims, we hope we may be permit-
ted to hold them as now located, otherwise great
inconvenience and hardship must nec-
essarily result.

On the subject of Education, your Memorial-
ists would beg to present for your consideration,
that in this, as in the settlement of all new Coun-
tries, unsurmountable barriers present themselves
to the general diffusion of education, that the
unavoidable sparcity of settlements and the

numerous pecuniary inconveniences often but limited inducement to competent preceptors, is a fact but too apparent, upon the consideration therefore that the general diffusion of knowledge, is among the leading principles of a Government, founded upon liberal and Republican principles like that of the United States (which government we are prayerfully awaiting to be extended over us), where the people not only in semblance, but in reality have the care of their political institutions, and as their ability to exercise that power in a manner that will be most conducive to the prosperity and preservation thereof, depends materially upon the general diffusion of education, We say upon these considerations, and in view of the disadvantages under which we labor; your Memorialists most respectfully beg to suggest the propriety of adopting some measures which shall have for their tendency the removal of those barriers above mentioned, and place a sound elementary education within the reach of all. Your Memorialists will not pretend to devise ways and means, but presuming upon the known liberality of the enlightened Government of the United States; we fondly cherish the hope that ere long we may

receive that timely assistance which has invariably been afforded by liberal grants of land and otherwise in different portions of the Union.

The difficulty of sailing vessels navigating the Columbia, on their upward passage, during the winter season and the dangers to be encountered by them in crossing the bar, of that river, is another subject to which we would most sincerely and respectfully solicit the attention of your honorable body. No greater drawback has perhaps as yet presented itself, to the welfare of our community, than the tardy movements of ship-owners in sending vessels to this river, whereby we might be enabled to dispose of the produce of our lands and prevent them unavoidable high prices on the part of the Merchant to which we are at present subject. This reluctance on the part of Merchants above alluded to is doubtless caused in a great measure by the risk to which Merchandize is subject in crossing the bar, and the loss of time and expense consequently incurred by sailing craft in arriving at their destination.

The causes of the difficulties to which we have reference are as follows: That with respect to crossing the bar, a vessel is under

the necessity from the intricacy of the passage
aren't what is generally termed a fair wind and
also in most cases a particular stage of the
tide, She is subject both to natural Gales
and calms caused by Cape Disappointment
and the adjacent high lands, as also the in-
fluence of numerous Currents setting to-
wards different points according to the stage
of tide.

During five months of the year, we
may say the wind almost continually
blows down the river; so that an inward
bound Vessel usually take from one to
two months in advancing a distance of
100 miles, or from the entrance of the Colum-
bia to Portland on the Willamette river.

A more detailed discription of the intri-
cat navigation of this river, we presume
would be superfluous, as the journals of
Com. Wilkes, Capt. Belcher, and others, have
doubtless come under the observation of you
Govm. We have during our present Ses-
sion done our utmost for the safety of ves-
sels in establishing a Pilotage, but at the
same time, are of the opinion, that nothing

but the aid of steam vessels will save that loss of labor, time and property of which we speak. We, therefore your Memorialists would most earnestly petition your honorable body, for the use of a steam tug boat, which might enable Vessels either to enter or leave the river at all seasons, and be of infinite service in the navigation of the stream itself.

Before closing this our Memorial, we cannot but express with mixed astonishment and admiration, our high estimation of a ground project (the news of which has found its way to Oregon) by the Memorial of Sir. Wilkes, Esq., for a Railroad from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean. That such a thing should exist, cannot but be obvious to every person; particularly to those who have traveled from the United States to Oregon, and although some years may roll by before the completion of this, great undertaking, yet we shall anxiously look forward to the time when by such a work, commerce shall stride with gigantic steps over those wild and solitary regions and known only as the hunting grounds of the trapper or the red man.

In conclusion, upon humble memorialists having presented for your consideration, some of the most important subjects to the prosperity and welfare of our adopted country, do most earnestly and respectfully pray that they may meet such reception and consideration, as shall redound to the peace and prosperity of all interested; and the fruitfulness of an attachment to the Government of the United States of America; as shall cause only with an existence, that your Memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

Attest

N. D. Shuby
Clerk

A. L. Lovejoy
Speaker.

Letter

From Senator Benton to the People of Oregon,

Washington City, March, 1847.

My Friends:—

(For such I may call many of you from personal acquaintance, and all of you from long thirty years devotion to the interests of your Country) I think it right to make this communication to you at the present moment, when the adjournment of Congress, without passing the bill for your government and protection, seems to have left you in a state of abandonment by your Mother Country. But such is not the case. You are not abandoned! Nor will you be denied protection unless you agree to admit slavery. I, a man of the South, and a slaveholder, tell you this.

The House of Representatives, as early as the middle of January, had passed the bill to give you a Territorial Government; and in that bill had legalized and sanctioned your Provisional Organic act, one of the clauses of which forever prohibited the existence of slavery in Oregon. An Amendment from the Senate's Committee, to which this bill was referred, proposed to abrogate that prohibition; and in

the delays and Vexations to which that amend-
ment gave rise, the whole bill was laid upon
the table, and lost for the session. This will be a
great disappointment to you, and a real calam-
ity. Already five years without the laws, or legal
institutions for the protection of life, liberty
and property, and now doomed to wait a
year longer. This is a strange and anamalous
condition! almost incredible to contemplate,
and most critical to endure! a colony of free
men, 3,000 miles from the Metropolitan gov-
ernment, and without law. or government
to preserve them. But do not be alarmed, or
despirat. You will not be outlawed for not
admitting slavery. Your fundamental objection
that institution, copied from the Ordinance of
1787, (the work of the great men of the South,
in the great day of the South: prohibiting
slavery in a Territory for less northern than
yours)—will not be abrogated! Nor is that
the intention of the prime mover of the amend-
ment. Upon the record the Judiciary Committee
of the Senate is the author of that amendment,
but not of the fact. It is only mid-wife to it.
Its author is the same mind that generated the
"Fire Brand Resolutions," of which I send

upon a copy, one of which the amendment is the legitimate derivation, Oregon is not the object. The most lobid supporter of slavery cannot expect to plant it on the shores of the Pacific, in the latitude of Wisconsin and the Lake of the Woods; a home agitation, for election and discussion purposes, is all that ~~is attempted~~ is intended by thrusting this fire-brand question into your bill; and, at the next session, when it is thrust in again, we will dispose it out, and pass your a bill as it ought to be. I promise you this in the name of the South as well as of the North, and the event will not disclose me. In the meantime the President will give you all the protection which existing laws, and detachments of the army and navy, can enable him to extend to you; and until Congress has time to act. Your friends solemnly depend upon you to continue ~~to~~ to govern yourselves, as you have heretofore done, under the provisions of your own voluntary compact, and with the fidelity, harmony, and moderation which is due to your own character and to the honor of the American name.

I send you, by Mr. Shively, a copy of the bill of the last session, both as it passed the House of Representatives and as proposed to be amended in the Senate, with the Senate's vote upon laying it on the table, and a copy of Mr. Calhoun's Resolutions

(posterior in date to the Amendment, but, nevertheless, its father) — also a copy of your own Provisional Organic Act, as printed by order of the Senate. All which will put you completely in possession of the proceedings of Congress, in your petition for a Territorial Government, and for the protection and security of your rights.

In conclusion, I have to assure you that the same spirit which has made me the friend of Oregon for 20 years — which led me to demand the joint occupation treaty the day it was made, and to oppose its renewal in 1828, and to labor for its abrogation until it was terminated. The same spirit which led me to reveal the grand destiny of Oregon in Articles Written in 1818, and to support every measure for her benefit since — this same spirit still animates me, and will continue to do so while I live — which, I hope, will be long enough to see an emporium of Asiatic Commerce at the mouth of your river, and a stream of Asiatic trade pouring into the Valley of the Mississippi through the channel of Oregon.

Your friend and fellow Citizen
Thos H. Benton

Miscellaneous.

Letter of James Douglas & Loon Commission
1847.

Peacock Lamon Controversy.

Letter in regard to Compact of H.B. Co.
and the Provisional Government.
1845

Wm. Douglas's Letter.

In reply to Joint Commissioners Letter on page 322 Oregon Archives,

Fort Vancouver, 11th Dec. 47.

To
Jesse Applegate,
A. L. Lovejoy,
Geo. L. Curry,
Esqrs.

Gentlemen,

I have had the honor of your communication of this date, and have given an attentive perusal to the documents accompanying it. With a deep feeling of the importance of the object which has procured me the honor of your present visit, and the necessity of the measures contemplated for the punishment of the Cayuse Indians, and for the future protection of the country. I can on the present occasion, only repeat the assurance verbally given in our conversation of yesterday, that I have no authority to grant loans, or make any advances whatsoever on account of the Hudson's Bay Company, my orders on that

point being so positive, that I cannot devia
from them without assuming a degree of
responsibility, which no circumstances
could justify to my own mind.

It is however in accordance with the spirit
and letter of my instructions from the
Hudson's Bay Company to exert their whol
power and influence in maintaining
the peace of the Country, and in protect-
ing the white population from Indian
outrage. The force equipped and dispatch-
ed at their sole expense to Walla Walla,
under the command of Mr. Ogden, imm-
mediately on receiving intelligence of the
disastrous event at Wanatpai, is an earne
of our attention to the calls of humanity.
The object of that expedition is with the
blessing of God, to prevent further ag-
gression; to rescue the women and children
who survived the massacre from the hands
of the Indians, and to restore them to their
afflicted friends.

Trusting that their objects may be
successfully accomplished

I have the honor &c.

James Douglas

C. F. & H. Bev.

Launch boat Controversy.

Page 99 Resolution appointing Committee.

Communication noted on page 102 is as follows:

To

Messrs. J. McElroy, } Members of Legislative
J. W. Smith, } Committee of Arrgt.
J. Applegat }

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to state that I have duly considered the Resolve which you delivered me, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the Launch boat left in my charge by Lieut. Wilkes can be given up to this government provided this government becomes responsible for the safe keeping and delivery of the said boat to the order of Lieut. Wilkes or the U. S. Government, - whenever properly demanded. It will afford me great pleasure to meet the wishes of this government and to give up the boat on the conditions proposed. Provided this government will take the ~~proper~~ necessary ~~steps~~ measures to cause this boat to be employed only for the purpose for which

she was left with me, — viz — To be employed in Visiting Vessels and affording assistance to them when in distress, and I could not consistent with the confidence put in me and the respect I owe the flag which bears her — consent to her being employed to any other service. I have honor to be x x x

Oregon City John McLaughlin

Aug. 12, 1845.

Page 11½.

To Com dex x x x

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Resolution left at my office with Mr. Campbell x x x x x x x x x x x but after again giving x~~it~~ submit my further consideration & am sorry it is not in my power consistent with my trust, to give any other answer than that in reference of 12th inst I have x x /

Oregon City John McLaughlin

Aug 20, 1845

Gov. Abernethy

Governor of Oregon Ter.

x x I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Dec 31st 1845

enclosing a copy of an Act, authorizing the Governor "to take charge of, refit and employ the Launch of the Peacock," which only came to hand yesterday evening.

In reply, I beg leave to state, that I can only deliver, any article, belonging to the Peacock's Launch, on receipt of an order from the Government of the United States, or from Capt. Wilkes,

Oregon City I am &c
January 8. 1846 John McLaughlin.

In Oregon Spectator of March 19, 1846, will be found a letter from Dr John McLaughlin on this subject.

Compact with H. B. Company.

Oregon City, Aug 14, 1845

To
John McLaughlin
Chief Factor of H. B. Coy.

Sir:

As a question has arisen in the House of Representatives on the subject of apportionment upon which we feel peculiarly situated, and beg leave to ask of you a question; the answer to which will enable us to come to a definit conclusion upon that subject. The question to which we would be happy to receive an answer is:

Do you think the gentlemen belonging to the Company over which you presides, will become parties to the article of Compact, by the payment of taxes and in other respects, complying with the laws of this Provisional Government?

Your answer to this query is most respectfully solicited.

Yours with the highest respect,

(Signed)

J. W. Smith,
H. A. G. Lee,
J. M. Garrison,
Barton Lee.

Reply.

Oregon City Aug. 15, 1845.

To

J. W. Smith and others

Gentlemen;

We have the honor to acknowledge your favor of 14th inst. and beg in reply to say, that viewing the organization as a compact of certain parties, British and Americans subjects residing in Oregon, to afford each other protection in person and property, to maintain peace of the community and prevent the commission of crime a protection which all parties in this country feel they particularly stand in need of; as neither the British or American Governments appear at liberty to extend the jurisdiction of their laws to this part of America; and moreover seeing that this compact does not interfere with our duties and allegiance to our respective governments, nor with any rights of trade, now enjoyed by the Hudson's Bay Company; We, the Officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, consent to become parties to the articles of compact, provided we are called upon to pay taxes only on our "sales to settlers."

We have the honor to be &c.

(Signed.) John McLaughlin,
James Douglas.

Memorials to Congress,

from

Oregon.

June 28th 1845, also a

Letter from J. E. Long, Clerk of Legislative Committee to Dr Elijah White, as Messenger to the States.

Dr Whites reply.

Memorial to Congress. (1845.)

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled

Your memorialists, and petitioners, the Representatives of the people of Oregon, for themselves and in behalf of the ~~citizens~~ citizens of the United States, residing in this Territory, would respectfully submit for the consideration of your honorable body, some of the grievances under which we labor, and pray your favorable consideration of our petition for their remedies.

Without dilating upon the great importance of this territory as an appendage to the Federal Union, or consuming your valuable time in repeating to you the oft ~~repeated~~ reiterated account of our agricultural and Commercial advantages, we would with due deference submit to your serious consideration our peculiar difficulties as occupants of this territory. As by treaty stipulations between the government of the United States and Great Britain, this territory has become a kind of neutral

ground in the occupancy of which the citizens of the United States and the subjects of Great Britain have equal rights, and as your Memorialists humbly conceive, ought to have equal protection. Such being the fact, the population of the Territory through promiscuously interspersed is composed of the subjects of a crown, and the citizens of a Republic between whom no common bond of union exists.

It may naturally be supposed that in the absence of any provision having been made by the two Governments to prevent or settle any such occurrence, that conflicting interests, aided by ancient prejudices, would speedily lead to results, the most disastrous. Particularly when it is considered that the mixed population exists in the midst of numerous and warlike tribes of Indians to whom the smallest dissentions among the white inhabitants would be the signal to let loose upon their defenseless families all the horrors of savage warfare.

To prevent a calamity so much to be dreaded, the well disposed inhabitants of this Territory have found it absolutely necessary to establish a provisional and temporary

government, embracing all free male citizens and whose Executive, Legislative and Judicial powers, should be equal to all the exigencies that may arise among themselves, not provided for by the government to which they owe allegiance;— and we are happy to inform your honorable body, that with but few individual exceptions, the utmost harmony and good will has been the result of this, as we conceive wise and judicious measure, and the British subjects and American citizens vie with each other in their obedience and respect to the laws and in promoting the common good and general welfare of Oregon.

Although such has been the result thus far of our temporary union of interests, though we the citizens of the United States have had no cause to complain, either of exactions or oppressions at the hands of the subjects of Great Britain, but on the contrary it is but just to say that their conduct towards us has been most friendly, liberal and philanthropic. Yet, we fear a long continuance of the present state of things, it is not to be expected. Our temporary gov-

ment, being timid in its efficiency and crip-
pled in its powers by the paramount duty we
owe to our respective Governments. Our reve-
nue being inadequate to its support, and
almost total absence apart from the Hudson's
Bay Company of the means of defence agains
the Indians which recent occurrences led us
to fear, entertain hostile feelings towards
the citizens of the United States.

Your Memorialists would further inform your
Honorable body that while the subjects of Great Brita
through the agency of the Hudson's Bay Company, are
amply provided with all the munitions of war,
and can afford by means of their numerous
fortifications, ample protection for themselves
and their property, the citizens of the United
States are scattered over a wide extent of
territory, without a single place of refuge,
and within themselves almost entirely dest
tute of every means of defence.

Your Memorialists would further crave your
indulgence to remark that Great Britain has
by extending her criminal code to this coun-
try, guaranteed every British subject claim
ing his birthright, a legitimate trial by
the laws of his country. We as citizens of

the United States, having neither the Military protection of our government nor the extension to us of the civil laws of our country, are forced to the enactment and execution of laws, not authorized, and, that, for aught we know, never will be sanctioned by our government.

Your Memorialists would further call the attention of your honorable body to the fact that as citizens of the United States, we labor under the greatest commercial disadvantages, we have neither ships of war nor of commerce, nor any navigation of the rivers of the interior, and for want of adequate protection, no private capitalists among us can establish a successful competition with a wealthy and powerful monopoly, possessing all the appliances of commerce and all the influence over the natives by an early establishment among them, we are therefore dependant for a market for a large and increasing surplus, and for nearly all our supplies upon a single company which holds the market under its control.

Your Memorialists with a view to remedy the grievances under which we labor, pray the National Congress to establish a distinct Territorial Government to embrace Oregon and its adjacent sea coasts.

We pray for adequate means of protection from the numerous Indian tribes which surround us, for the purchase of territory which they are willing to sell, and for agents with authority to regulate intercourse between whites and Indians and between Indian tribes.

That donations of lands may be made according to the inducements held out to us, by the passage of a bile through the United States Senate at the second session of the 27th Congress, entitled "A Bill to authorize the adoption of Measures for the occupation and settlement of the Territory of Oregon, for extending certain portions of the Laws of the United States, over the same, and for other purposes."

That Navy yards and Mounin depots may be established on the sea

Columbia, and upon Puget Sound, and a naval force adequate to our protection be kept permanently in the adjacent seas.

We pray for — The establishment of such commercial regulations as may enable us to trade in our own territory, at least on an equality with non-resident foreigners.

We pray — That adequate Military protection be given to emigrants coming to us, either by the establishment of posts upon the route or by Military escort.

And we pray — That in the event you deem it expedient as a measure, or contrary to the spirit of existing treaties to establish a Territorial Government in Oregon, that you extend to us adequate military and naval protection so as to place us at least upon a par with other occupants of this Country.

That a Public mail be established, to arrive and depart Monthly

from Oregon City and Independence (Mo.), and such other local mail routs to be established as are essential to the Willamette country and other settlements.

For the granting of which, your Memorialists will ever pray.

(Signed) Osborn Russell, } Executive
Peter H. Stewart } Committee
J. O. Newmith, Judge of Circuit Court
W. M. McCarver, Speaker of the House of Legislative Committee
Jesse Applegate,
Medard L. Foisy,
W. H. Gray,
J. M. Garrison
Abijah Hendricks
David Hill,
H. A. G. Lee,
Barton Lee,
John McClure,
Robert Newell,
Livans Stanfield,

Done at Oregon City, 28th June, 1845

Attest J. E. Long Clerk

Copy of a letter accompanying the memorial to Congress, delivered to the Care of Dr. E. White, by J. E. Long, on Saturday, June 28th 1845.

The accompanying memorial is committed to the Care of Dr. E. White, by a resolution, passed at the June session of 1845, of the Legislative Committee of Oregon, to be delivered by him to the delegation from Missouri, to the Congress of the United States of America, with a request that it be presented to said Congress at the opening of the session of 1845.

(Signed) J. E. Long
Clerk of Legislative Comm

Acknowledgement.

Oregon City, June 28th 1845

To the Honorable, the House of Representatives in Convention Assembled:

Gentlemen:

For the respect and confidence you have reposed in constituting

your agent to transmit your Memorial to the Senate and Congress of the United States, you have my hearty, best acknowledgements. And be assured, gentlemen, I feel the most honored and the highest pleasure in consideration of the character of the communication and the spirit that prevailed in getting it up, and passing it through your House.

With respect &c. x x x

x x x x x x

x x x x

(Signed) E. White

To the Hon
The House of Representatives
of Oregon assembled

Your Memorial
and petition to the Senate and Representatives
of the United States which I had the honor
to receive for transmission 30 days since
I regret to say has not been forwarded
agreeably to your expectations and my in-
tentions It may be known to most of
you that such was the interest of the
good citizens of this colony to procure an
easier and safer method for the Emigrants
to us from St Hall and particularly from
the Falls of the Columbia that a sum
$2000. was subscribed for myself and Barlow
benefit on condition of our exploring out a
Waggon route and piloting down the Emigrants
with their effects through some part of the
Cascade Mountains south of Mt Hood to
accomplish this desirable object I raised
a party of sufficient strength for safety and
no less than three pilots experienced and
faithful the best I could obtain for the impor-
tant but untried adventure Our first
days March from the Oregon Institute in a due
East direction of 20 Miles brought us to an

88 opening of some 2½ miles Width through which
passed the N. Arm of the Fork of the Wallamette
As we entered the pass and proceeded forward
between gentle hills gradually swelling into
Mountains We were greatly interested and
encouraged by finding that the valley continued
about the same Width Well grassed and
presenting no obstacles to a waggon pass save
a few logs some hazle bushes and two short
but steep hills for a distance of some 14 or 15 miles
Here the Mountains become steepen and higher
and the valley narrower and generally heavy timbered
for some 16 Miles further where the River
was found to pass through a deep narrow
cut in the mountains and being no longer
able to follow the Stream the most advantageous
Ridge was sought — and the summit of the
Mountain with difficulty Made At the base
and for one third the way upward heavily
timbered, then steepen and Rocky (then
steep stile Rocks larger as we advanced
More Craggy and seemingly thrown together
in confusion — higher up still vegitation
becomes stinted and at the summit patches
of snow still existed on the 18th July At the
highest point of this Ridge somewhat above
any in the vicinity and apparently on a level
With perpetual snow the scenery was
grand and delightfully imposing the whole

Wallamette Valley being spread out as upon a Map and the day so clear that the 87
Seven Snowy Mountains & the Stupendious Ridge and others in its vicinity were in full view Such is the height that 8 hours seven traveling was consumed in reaching the Summit from which it May not be uninteresting to say Saint Helens at the top presents a flat surface

But to return from this lofty point the Cascade Ridge was brought conspicuably to view and truly the Altitude was so great the wide Fairfax to Rocky ruggen and broad and its length as extended connected and continuous with scarcely a perceptible depression as far as the eye could reach that the view and prospect was quite disheartening to my Pilots After returning to Camp and geting the united unfavourable opinion of my Guides who were much discouraged I resolved carefully to explore the Country at the base of the Mountains to the head of the Wallamette Valley And attempt a passage wherever a favourable appearance presented itself — This was executed faithfully but with no better success finding as our first observation indicated and as the old Molalla Indian Chief assured us one continuous chain till we hap the Clamet

Mountains beyond which they often pass
through an evident depression to the Clamet
country This pass represented as Earthy and
the surface covered with snow often till
late in July, opening at least three hundred
Miles South of the Wallamette Falls
Tender it less important to emigrants,
to us here, and likewise to the Government
of the United States, than an improved pass
North of Mount Hood or Southerly in view
of its throwing us so far South it might
be preferable to improve navigation
upon the Columbia or clear that Stream
at Wallawalla Upon this subject I regret
to say I am not well informed but while
unsuccessful in my attempts to find
a suitable Waggon pass across the
Cascades in which we are all so deeply
concerned It may not be uninteresting
to remark that in keeping along by
the base of these Mountains to the upper
end of the Valley this were all greatly
struck and most agreeably surprised
with the great variety of beautiful
scenery and particularly the strength of the soil
as manifested nearly all along in the extraor
dinary growth of vegitation of different kinds
Mrs S. been with me as this time
specimens of Wheat oats doubtless scattered

by Indians and the bunch grass growing in a state of nature, some 150 miles South of this, from 5 to 9 feet high Cropping the upper end of the Valley and skirting along in like manner at the base of the Pacific Range of Mountains we met every where with an equally beautiful and fertile country combining still greater advantages for settlement and private convenience in timber, water &c &c Though at the extreme South end the places Either wet and in the centre of the Valley in patches somewhat gravelly Timber in the upper end of the valley white and black oak, Pine, Maple, Alder, Ash and Chinkapin Some 36 or 40 Miles on our way down the River observing a singular depression in the mountains We attempted a pass to the Pacific keeping upon the summit of the nearest ridge, and was greatly surprized to observe that a small stream commenced within the Span not more than two miles from the open valley of the Willamette and led as directly to the Pacific as could have been expected through a Mountainous district of country After following this pass down some 18 or 20 Miles we found ourselves in a valley and on the river

92 Cougar where we met with some 14 or 15
choice Prairies Claims well timbered and
watered some timothy & abundance of
clover and this common bunch grass growing
most luxuriantly We here met with
lime stone and named this beautiful quiet
and retired valley Limestone Prairie
Above this the Mountain Pass becomes more
rugged and difficult and no practicable
route for waggons was discovered save
by the River which was upon either
hand found to be favourable No cut
Locks being met with and the descent
gradual to within some 12 or 15 miles
of the Ocean Where we met with Gals
the Mountains here gradually sink down into
hills and from hills to high rolling ground
to the Ocean on each side of the River
From these Falls of some 4 ors and then
Rapids for ¼ of a mile we found no more
swift water but a fine channel of
sufficient depth for Schooners or
Steamboat Navigation at all times to
the Ocean with a harbour of 2½ Miles in length
of a suitable width admirably sheltered from
Winds of every description Salmon Clams
Sea Crabs and white fish here abound
large in size and fine in flavour
The natives state that a little South

of this Harbour extensive prairie land claim exists and that on low tide the water upon the bar is uniformly 12 feet deep How this may be I am not able to say as we had no time or means of examination but question it much as I think the River to small, however am happy to observe that immediately after a considerable blow of wind we were all gratified to see that not a breaker rolled across the bar! The natives were few and unfriendly but apparently disposed not more than 40 therein including both sexes and all ages Nor did we see I think in the whole tour more than about a hundred and fifty Indians This has providence prepared the way for a nother Race of Men and a better order of things On our return we kept to the canoe in order to observe as to the feasibility of a Waggon route by the River Bays and was agreeably surprised to find it so favourable from the Ocean side to this Valley The cost will be considerable though in My opinion nothing in comparrisson With the great advantage of bringing Ship Navigation with all the products of the Ocean Within 2 days drive with our oxteams to the very centre of this delightful Valley The very Mountains of the Pacific

92 94 Give evidence of strength of soil
unusual in such regions both
in the growth of timber and vegetation
good cedars and the loftiest firs
abound interspersed with the wild
Chestnut or Chinkapin and on the streams maple
Ash Alder Laurel &c &c On reaching the valley
we pursued our way as before keeping near
the mountains all the way down to the Creek.
Not less pleased with that part of the journey
and country than any other portion through
out and probably on the whole it combines
more advantages for Claims and private
Conveniences being admirably watered coun
tryed timbered and richly clothed with
grass and the scenery unsurpassed for
beauty and loveliness Upon the whole I am
induced with each article of my cheerful
duty to agree that the upper Willamette is
the finest country I have seen and believe
it the garden of America if not the Garden
of the World Please pardon the length of my
Epistle and as my expences in this enterprize
have been considerable allow me here
to say any expredsion from your honorable
body touching this matter will be regarded
as a particular favour

Be pleased to accept
& while I remain Dear Sir
Yours with due regard and
great respect

O. White Sub Ag

Military Orders.
and
Letters in regard to the Cayuse War,
1847–8.

General Order No. 1.

Fort Vancouver,
Dec. 11th, 1847.

Sir:

On receipt of this, you will with all dispatch, proceed with the Company under your Command, to The Dalles on the Columbia River, and occupy the Mission station there until otherwise ordered.

As the Indians in that neighborhood are friendly to the whites, you will see that their property and persons are not molested in any way, at the same time keeping them at a distance, not permitting them to crowd into camp. If they have any business in the Camp, as soon as their business is disposed of, see that they are quietly conducted outside. If you hear of any property in the neighborhood that have been stolen from the Emigrants, endeavor to get it into your charge, keeping an exact account of all property thus obtained.

Geo. Abernethy
Gov. of Oregon Territory

To
Capt. R. A. E. Lee
Capt. 1st Company, Oregon Riflemen

(Private)

Oregon City, Dec. 30, 1847.

Dear Sir:

I received yours of 16th Dec. (not found in our Archives, J. H. B.) Mr. J. L. Meek leaves in the morning over the Columbia river for the States, and will send this by him. We have heard nothing from you since you left the Cascades. I therefore say nothing officially to you with regard to your movements but leave it to your own discretion. We have heard that the buildings at the Dalles were all destroyed and the property all taken away. I hope this is not so, but that you are there with your party, if you are, I know the Indians cannot dislodge you if you have plenty of powder and lead.

On the 11th inst. you were elected Major of the regiment, by the Legislature. C. Gilliam, Colonel, James Waters, Lieut. Col. On my return to Oregon City, I met the Members of the Legislature informally, and had some conversation with them, the result was 100 men were called out. The probability of the Dalles being destroyed and the feeling of the people all being in favor of a large party ~~being~~ being sent up. I met the Assembly in Senate

session, Col. Gilliam, Lt. Col. Wales, and Commissary General Palmer, being present. After some Consultation, 600 men was called for and I issued my proclamation accordingly to rendezvous on or before 8th of Jany. next at Fort Lane, to proceed up on horseback. A party has been sent to the Cascades to build a flat to ferry men above the ~~Columbia~~ Cascades and to put up buildings to place provisions in. We are working in the dark, not knowing what is going on above, perhaps our preparations are too extensive, perhaps not. Col. Gilliam will proceed up your way as soon as two Companies can be mustered in. We are anxious to hear of your welfare, we have heard you were camped below The Dalles. & the buildings were destroyed.

Just observed a Knock at the door, person from whom came down, heard I had received a letter from you, "that you had had a fight, lost two men, &c &c. that the Walla Walla had joined the Cayuses." I told them that I had not heard from you, this is the way people trifle with the feelings of the community

Dr. Saffans is at the Cabins, on the Columbia

bia. I suppose she does not like to come this way as he left the party he was with, thinking you were Indians, and came down on foot, he-sents the Indians drove off the horses and cattle from The Dalles and probably destroyed the buildings.

When is Mr. and Mrs. Hinman ~~and~~ and those that were with them, did they return with you. They have not come down and we think they did return.

x x x x x x

Yours &c.
Ed. O'Hennelly

Oregon City Dec. 27th. 1847.

Maj. H. A. G. Lee.

× × × × I believe that the Legislature have done all that is in its power to raise Men and means for the prosecution of the war, but little has yet been ~~done~~ accomplished owing to the imbecility of the Executive. The proclamation which was authorized for the raising of 500 men immediately after your departure, has been delayed until the 25th Dec, and I almost know it would not have been issued at all, had not the Legislature removed the responsibility from the shoulders of the Gov, and assumed it themselves.

I know it has been difficult to obtain means yet the Gov, has had sufficient at his disposal to forward your re-inforcements and provisions, both of which would probably be acceptable to you before this.

× × × × × ×

J. W. Nesmith

Oregon City, Jan. 1st, 1848

Maj. Lee.

I received your letter of Dec 26th x x x

I am very, very glad to hear that the Dalles buildings were all safe, and that you found the natives around you friendly. Look out for Siletson. without letting him know it. I have not seen Mr. Hines, nor suspect many things down here which we hope is not true. You had better immediately on receipt of this, if you accept the Majrs Commission, order an election for Captain, and fill all Vacancies. the Company will stand 1st Company of 1st Reg. of Riflemen; the early election will give priority of rank to Capt Elections will be held at Portland as soon as the companies get in then.

I regret Mr Cyrus's course, praying for evil and bad to the Indians, I will see about the guns you spoke of.

I hope the force that will soon be with you will bring all the Indians under through fear. Let them all understand if they will be friendly, they shall not be interrupted in any way.

x x x

Yrs. Absent Majr.

Oregon City, Jan 1. 1848

Maj. Lee x x x x x

x x x x Money is ~~the~~ wanted very much, it is indeed one of the sinews of war. We have been trying to send an express to you, perhaps we may succeed to-day, but the first thing is "Icta Mica potlatch (what will you give), Commissary Genl. Palmer is doing all that he can; some provisions are coming on. A few men were stacked to the Cascades last Wednesday to build shanties for storing provisions in, and build a flat boat to ferry stores across above the Cascade rapids. I think if there is any prospect of a general war with the Indians, of building a block house at the Cascades and keeping a small force there. Dr. Saffran told me he thought your party were Indians, and that you kept firing guns until night. I presume the men were cleaning their guns. He says Hinman running into the woods after hearing a volley of your people in one of the canoes confirmed his belief,

x x x

x x x

Sec. Abernethy.

Oregon City Jan 5, 1848.

Maj. Lee:

x x x x

Sergeant McMillan starts on his return this morning. He has the spy glass and papers. I am uneasy for Mr. Stanley, the painter, he is about Rev. Mr. Spaulding's.

We are now getting lots of pork and some wheat.

Col. Gilliam will start in a few days up the river with about two Companies.

x x x x x x x

Sir Obedt Servt

Fort Waccopum
Jany. 24. 1876.

A. L. Lovejoy
Ley. Lind.

x x x x x x

Col. Gibbons arrived yesterday with staff as the head of an advance guard of 50 men, accompanied by Mr. Meek and his party, making 68 men in all. Leaving Capt. Hall in command of the forces in the rear at Wind Mountain. They are all expected here today or tomorrow.

Things are beginning to wear a more favorable aspect than they have done in this quarter. The Col. is full of fight, and believes we are all ready and willing to back him, as far as he dare go against the proper enemy.

I am of the opinion however, that if we go with a sufficient force and manage well, there will but little fighting done at present, but a small force and a little vimpudence will ruin the devil and all the Indians.

x x x x x x

Tell Curry to give three cheers a little particular — before he leaves the paper.

The Colonel thinks it will be necessary for him to remain in the field until next fall, when

he expects relief from Uncle Sam. If he should remain, I am bound to be with him to the last, or lose my hair.

× × × × × ×

I regret very much that the H. Blackfeet are opposed to the step taken by the Government to punish the Indians, and at once to put a stop to the Course of this Chief and many of his people pursued by them towards us; and I shall not be surprised if the present affair should lead to difficulty between us and the Company. I forbear at present to mention all the unpleasant things that have come to my knowledge in regard to their intercourse with the natives

× × × ^ ^

Com'g &c

W. A. S. Lee.

Maj. 1st Reg. O. V.

Vicksburgh, Jan 30, 1848

Maj. Lee.

I deem it necessary at this crisis to warn you against placing too much confidence in the fidelity and friendship of Thomas. I have known him for several months and do assure you, I cannot place any confidence and honesty and friendship of the gentleman. I speak from passed events as well as the present symptoms of his dishonesty and deception. Those two females prisoners sent in by him, he said nothing about to us, but took them to his own house and claimed them as booty of his own. This does not bear an honest face, therefore be cautious and study the face and act of him well before you entrust him for. I am aware that he possesses considerable qualities of blandishment and native deception, and if you are not cautious he will deceive you.

I have not time to note the particulars of his character further.

X X X X X X X

H. Sufferans

Letters & Report of the Cayuse War. 1848.

(Private)

Oregon City Jan. 27, 1848.

Maj. Lee.

x x x x x

Lt. Col. Waters left Portland with a small Co. pany last Friday. The French is said are coming in next Monday, A company from Santiam will soon be in, and in a few days also one from Molalla, and I hear one is being raised in Polk county. I presume they will be coming for weeks yet unless you can bring the war to a close.

I think at every opportunity, you have, Indians should be told, that all we want is the murderers, We wish to be at peace with all of the Indians in the upper country, but if they join in protecting the murderers and intend to unite against us, that we must then declare war against the whole of them, and if they kill us all off, that where there is one American killed, ten will come to fill the vacancy,

+ What is our Magistrate efforts for —, how he reached the Dalles? Perhaps he may Must some U. S. men near Fort Hall, as a regiment was ordered to be raised for the

purpose of building forts on the route to Oregon, tho they were ordered to Mexico subsequently as I am informed. But if peace was reinstated between the U.S. and Mexico, they may have been ordered to proceed on the original plan. If they left Missouri as late as August, they would be wintered very likely at Green river, if they were acquainted with the country.

In your skirmish with the Indians, as you know what Indians were engaged in it; All their points it would be well to communicate, if they were Cayuses, we could expect nothing else, If Walla Wallas, it looks as if that tribe had united with the Cayuses.

Lieut Ross informs us, the Indians drove off about 250 head of cattle, that you afterwards captured 60 horses, Please be particular in other points; you know everything should be known; for instance, if you have horses, we must make no extra efforts to send horses from here. If your Cattle are all driven away, we must make extra efforts to supply you with beef and pork; the knowledge that you have so many cattle induced the Com. Gen. to stop purchasing pork, &c.

I shall publish nearly all the letters that come down, so that our fellow citizens may know the situation of affairs and also to stir them up to their duty.

Mr. Canfield says that you are mistaken as to Mr. Ogden's remark, as he was present, he says that Mr. O. meant your party of 50 men would be insufficient.

x x x x x x x

I think of associating you with Robert Newell, with the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Genl. Palmer, as Commissioners to treat with all friendly Indians tribes and assure them of the protection of the whites x

x x x x x x x

x As Mr. Neal has altogether disappointed the expectation of this Community in his movements, for it was fully expected of him that he would have been in California before this, and we learn that he is with Col. Gillium at present, expecting an escort of 40 men to conduct him on his way. Brother Merrinjer has been sent to California & neither the documents have been sent up to Jerco dispatched by

Lieut. Palmer, with instructions if Applegate cannot go, to employ some other person, by the time this reaches you, I hope he will be on the California trail. It is at that point we look for immediate help. We do not know what may be the effect of our movement upon the Indians in the Territory, they may unite against us. How necessary it is for us to have a man-of-war here, with light field pieces with ample supply of powder and ball, leaving everything else out of the question.

x x x x x

Lieut. Hunnetty

Oregon City, Dec. 28, 1847.

Sir:

Enclosed I beg leave to hand your Excellency two papers which will inform you of our present situation with the Indian tribes surrounding us. The Legislature now in session have drawn up a memorial to be laid before the Senate and House of Representatives of the U.S. In order to get it before the present Congress, they have elected a special messenger, Joseph L. Meek, Esq, to carry it via California, believing that your Excellency will render him such assistance as he may need to forward him on his journey, either via Panama, or by furnishing him a guide and escort to conduct him by the safest and best route by land. We feel very anxious to lay our wants before Congress as early as possible.

If all the Indian tribes in the upper country unite together, we shall need help as early as it can get here. A sloop of war would assist us very much. I have written a letter to Commodore Shubrick on this subject, which letter please forward to him.

I am &c.

Sec. Abernethy

To

R. B. Mason

Gov. of Cal.

Oregon City, Jan. 26, 1848.

Sir:

Annexed, I beg leave to hand you duplicate of my respects of 28th ult.

The Special Messenger appointed by the Legislature, has determined I am informed upon going to the U. S., via Fort Hall, asserting that it is impossible to get to California at this season of the year.

Our object in appointing a Messenger, was to get news of our situation to California, in hopes that a man of war would come immediately to our assistance, in order to obtain this object, another Messenger has been selected who will be the bearer of this to you.

Our situation is a critical one, and we do not know what the end may be. The small party forwarded in advance to the Dalles had a skirmish with the Indians, this looks as if they intended to unite, The presence of a sloop of war would go a great ways towards preventing them from uniting. We have no field pieces, some light pieces would be of great service to us,

x x x

Geo. Abernethy

To

Lieut. R.B. Mason,

Oregon City, Jan 26, 1848

Col. Gilliam

I received dispatches from Maj. Lee x x x in which he said that he had had a skirmish with a small party of Indians.

On receipt of this, you will select some of your best men and horses and scour the Des Chutes river country; if you have an idea that Indians hostile to the whites are in that neighborhood. It will require great caution on your part to command in chief in the field, to distinguish between friends and foes; but when you are certain that they are enemies, let them know the Americans are not women.

The 9-pounder has been forwarded to the Cascades, if the Indians fort themselves, it will be of great use to you. You will make the Dalles head quarters until further orders. Companies are still being formed throughout the counties, and will be forwarded on to join you at the Dalles as they come in.

Perhaps the hostile may come down to meet you, if they do give them liberty to get as close as you think they will venture, then you can commence operations.

If you think there is any danger of the Indians attacking Fort Gilliam at the Cascades, send a small force down. x x x

Geo. Abernethy

Oregon City Jan 29, 1848.

Sir:

As Lieut, Rees leaves this morning, x i x. x My reasons for retaining you at the Dalles is that the Companies now forming and expected next week may join you, That the Commissioners may also join you and that you may send word on to the Indians that no friendly tribes will be attacked. That all you want is the murderers and a restitution of stolen property. If they will bring the murders down to the Dalles and agree to make restitution for the property stolen and destroyed let them know that our operations will cease, provided, they the Chiefs enter into a treaty to protect American Citizens passing through their Territory; Their instructions you might send to the Chiefs every opportunity.

I hope you may succeed in bringing this serious affair to a speedy, and to yourselves a praiseworthy end. I however feel confident that you will do all you can to protect friendly Indians. Keep a sharp lookout for Siletzer without letting him know it.

Gov. Abernethy

To

Col. Gilliam,

Oregon City, Feb. 3, 1848

Sir:

I have appointed Major Lee, and Robert Newell, Commissioners to act with Genl. Palmer. U. S. of A., for the purpose of settling the present difficulties with the Indians, I have ordered them to have a Council with the Field officers of the Army, to decide on the steps necessary to be taken to this end should be entire unity between the officers and the Commissioners.

If you think it best to proceed at once with the main body of the army to Waillatpa do so. Selecting immediately on your arrival the best point in your judgment for erecting a fort, grass, water and wood, will be the principal objects, the Indians have no cannon, and could not annoy a fort from a distance,

Should the tribes combine together, and refuse to comply with the requisitions of the Commissioners, I leave the field in your hands, respecting however, the lives and property of all the friendly Indians,

x x x x x x x

To Gen. Abernethy

Genl. C. Gilliam

Commissary Office,
Oregon City, Feb 2d 1848.

A. E. Wait:

As the duties of Supt. of Indian Affairs call me from home for a time, I must rely upon you and Mr. Taylor, to transact the business of Commissary and Quarter Master Department, in my absence. The troops in the field must be supplied with provisions at all hazards. I should not advise the purchasing of beef and pork at present. Wheat is most needed, and if a supply cannot be had by purchasing with such funds as are at the disposal of the Department, a resort must be had of levying Contributions upon the citizens.

x x x x x x x x x

In doing this you will ~~not~~ be particular in most reducing the amount of breadstuffs below the want of families.

You should have at least 40 days rations in advance.

x x x x x x x x x

Jos Palmer
Com. Genl

Fort Vancouver, Feb. 3d. 1848.

A. E. Wait x x x Should you feel to procure wheat to meet the wants of the troops, a boat load of flour can be had at any time, at this place for the cash. Mr. Douglas has also tendered one of their boats if needed. x x x My bills at the Fort this day is nearly $400,00, over $80 is left unpaid until my return, x x The Managers at the Fort have taken the precaution to construct additional fortifications for the defense of this place. The two large cannon in front of Mr. Douglas dwelling, has been placed in the bastion newly erected commanding the southern side of the Fort. This is well, Should not the citizens generally take the same precaution and prepare for the worst?

Call upon the citizens through the medium of the press a hand bills, in both, to come forward and aid us, Now is the time to show them love of country; their patriotism, who are friends, and who are foes, There are but two sides, for and against; there can be no half way place.

I have bought a keg of powder and 100 lbs. of balls, which can be used to mill to load. Secure all the ammunition you can and forward speedily. Send cannon balls and canister; I will make a patern for the cannon to fit. There is 40 lbs of good rifle powder at Timmons in the Columbia slough opposite this Fort. Joel Palmer,

Letters in Regard

to the

Canyon War.

1848.

Willamette, Feb. 3d 1848.

Nez Perces Chiefs

Why Francis.— Ellis, Hauwaut, James, Quäinwaläkin, Luke, Jacob, Pucutash, Nannoh-Nohrain, Tauntamlikin, x x x x x x / Quick Must them with them flags Must them x With good hearts Must them, From us, from the Americans Kin go to Meet you. Wm Palmer, Sr Newell, Mr, Wm Hay, Wm Lee, and Wm Gilliam, There must you with good hearts they Must you. They bear a Message (proposals & law or a talk) from the great Chief they bear it x Therefore they call you to Meet them.

Keep quiet ye young Men, do not go over to the Cayuses. Wait till the (Commissioners) speak Clearly with you. The good are not to be punished, only the bad are to be punished. The Nez Perces, the Americans are one, therefore do you not depart from us. Very many Americans are going to seek the bad Cayuses, and the bad only. There will soon be large ships from California, therefore they offer to you a Message (proposals of peace). They send you tobacco, therefore Must them without delay. My youngest child is sick therefore I cannot Meet you, when he is well, I will see you by the blessing of God. Even Make yourselves quiet hearts, By the blessing of God May we see each other.

H. H. Spalding.

(Must in lieu of Cayuse letter.) Jan 3,

Fort Lillivin; Feb. 8, 1848

× × × There has been undoubtedly some thing going on, And quite a number of Jews have lately come up, boarding on the Army supplies. We can stop that. × × We learn that Col. Lillivin has had a bunch with the Indians, killing and wounding some 25 of them, as he afterwards learned by some old people found in their village, which had been abandoned in a hurry. Quite a large amount of property had been cached by them, but was found by the troops. A trunk containing papers and letters, maps &c, was found, showing clearly that the rascals had been engaged in plundering emigrants. The town of course was burned, but the old people were spared. The battle took place near Barlow's crossing of the Des Chutes river. John the Spaniard received a wound in the hip, but not considered dangerous, Another has sustained one port, some 4 feet horses which were frightened away.

Major Lee has also had two engagements upon the highlands beyond Des Chutes river, nothing however as to the results, no Americans were killed. The Indians engaged in this matter are Des Chutes, John Days and Cayuses. I understand that Mr. Covey stated

that Col. Hecker's son Edward, was among them, and that he was wounded.

The troops under Gilliam, behaved well, that their yells of fear exerted the Indians, that they became alarmed and left the field. The Indians were drawn up and formed into line upon the top of a high bluff; the troops being in the bottom of a canyon, the banks so steep that they were compelled to dismount, and leave the horses, then ascend the hill. The Indians in the mountain damned themselves in rolling stones down upon them.

x x x x x

Joel Palmer

Fort Waskopams, Feb. 16 1848.

A. L. Waite

Yesterday the regiment took up the line of march for Wallitpa × × our force numbers a little over 300 men. × × our train is 16 wagons, 190 head of cattle. × × 27 men have been left at this place including the sick, Capt. Williams in charge. I go forward in a few minutes. I hear that there are but 3 men left at Fort Lillium, and 3 men to run the boats from Fort Lillium (Cascades) to this place. The men have volunteered to fight Indians, and not to run boats, so say the officers, can you get men to run the boats? We have taken over 200 head of cattle belonging to the emigrants, and many more are still in the hills, but did not have time to drive them in.

The Indians at this place appear friendly. Two Indians belonging to a tribe 40 miles north of the Columbia have been in, we had a talk with them, and gave them some tobacco and a flag to take to their Chiefs. The Cayuses have been there, and made great promises to induce them to join them, one of the Chiefs was then in the Cayuse country; but it is believed they may be reclaimed. They informed us that large bodies of the Indians residing on the Des Chutes, John Days and

Columbia rivers had returned and settled in the Payne country. They also stated that the Nez Perces have joined them,

Two of the Indians engaged in the Des Chutes battle came in yesterday ~~to~~ as Messengers of Peace, We talked to them, gave them a flag and some tobacco for the Chiefs, they are to meet us at the crossing of the Des Chutes River.

x x x x

Joel Palmer.

Camp on John Day's River
Feb. 19th 1848.

Wm. H. Gray

The events which have transpired in the last few months, has rendered it necessary for the people of Oregon to fit out an expedition to punish the perpetrators of a cruel, the most brutal and barbarous in the annals of the history of Oregon at least. That people have also appointed Commissioners to treat with the Indians and mitigat, if not to prevent, the horrors of a general war with that people, and to such Commissioners, we address you.

The objects of the expedition is to punish the guilty; And whilst we shall use our utmost endeavors to accomplish this object, we shall be equally vigelant in saving the innocent; And that nothing may be wanting on our part to convince the Indians of our desire to preserve the friendly relations which have heretofore existed between us, — we send a Nez Perce Indian, Elijah, with a communication assuring them of our friendly disposition, — and that we come not to make war upon the innocent. We love not war, but when forced into it by the

acts of others, we must not shrink. Justice must be satisfied, We do not expect you to take part in the matter so as to implicate you, but if possible, to facilitate our movements to restor tranquility and to save us from an general war with ther people. This you can probably do by apprising us of the disposition of the Nez Perces, Walla Wallas, Cayuses &c.

We see no signs of Indians along our trail which with reports we have heard, evidences us to believe that the Des Chutes and John Days river Indians have united with the Cayuses. We have with us three men sent up as bearers of dispatches from Fort Vancouver to you, We have united with us also Jno. Thomas P.C. Clay as Captain of a company of his people, who (thinking) unsafe for three men to travel to Fort Walla Walla, they will remain with us until we arrive at your place, unless otherwise directed by you.

We feel much anxiety about you and the Indians situation. Do you need an additional number of men to protect the Fort? If so inform us, and Col. Gilliam will send them to you. Our party consists of one regi-

ment of Mounted Riflemen, numbering over 500 men, among them are people from all counties, and I am happy to say, Capt. McKay, who is well known to the Indians, of this country we have also J. L. Meek, George W. Ebbets, Wm. Craig and Charles McKay.

If you can aid us by hastening the letters to the Nez Perces and Walla Wallas, we should esteem it a great favor.

If a messenger should be sent to us, please furnish him with a white flag which will insure his safety.

Our route is on the upper road to Umatilla, then to Fort Walla Walla and to Waiilatpa, where the army expect to have the head quarters. We travel with the main body to Umatilla, when we shall take an escort and come to your post for the purpose of holding a talk with the chiefs.

Any suggestions from you as to our movements would be thankfully received.

We have written to the Nez Perces and through them to all friendly Indians.

x x x x x x x x x x

With highest Consideration &c.

Joel Palmer,
Robert Newell,
H. A. S. Lee.

P. S.

Please forward the enclosed letter post haste. We send with Elijah, to the Nez Perces a flag,

H. A. S. Lee.

Nat.

A piece of a letter which I find that was wrote by Maj. Lee is as follows: "On the 20th Elijah was dispatched to the Nez Perces from the upper crossing of the John Days river, with a letter from H. H. Spaulding, to the Chiefs written in the Nez Perce language, with a flag and some tobacco, we also wrote to Wm B, and inclosed both letters to him, The Messenger was taken prisoner—the flag and tobacco the enemy appropriated—but the package being address to Wm Bean was sent to him and fortunately arrived while 2 of the Nez Perces chiefs—Timothy and Richard were present. The letter from Mr. S. was handed to Timothy to be read & aloud, then Wm B read to them our letter to himself. The 2 chiefs returned with all speed to their people, bearing Mr. S. letter also what they had learned of us & Wm B, and to this fortunate circumstance we are doubtless for much of success of our Messenger in Reaching their tribe from our alliance with the Cayuse."

"It affords me much pleasure to inform you that the joint labors of the Supt. of Indian Affairs and the Commissioners appointed to visit and treat with the surrounding tribes, have been successful in breaking the ties of a fratrial alliance which the Cayuses had effected between themselves and the Indians of the Des Chutes; who on the 28th and 30th of January last were in battle against the Americans, but who are now encamped along side of our forces at Walla-Walla, with the stars and stripes proudly waving on their simple badges."

Fort Wascopam, Feb. 19, 1848

Friend Wait x x

The army was down the Des Chutes and about starting for the upper country. x x The Cayuse expected to have a friendly interview with the Des Chutes Indians, but they did not meet their appearance x x x We was informed by some Indians from the north side of the Columbia river, that the Des Chutes wanted peace but I am inclined to think they were spies. x x We want 80 more men here to be secure, & we have the picketing nearly done, will finish in a day or two more, then will be better able to resist an attack,

x x x x x

B. Jennings
A. D. M.

Letters in Legacy

to

Eugene Ware.

1848.

Fort Wascopam, Feb. 28 1848.

Friend Wait: × × ×

Seletza, (one of the friendly Indians) informs us, that the Priest at Walla Walla, under Cayuses had shields made for the Cayuse Indians, and they, the Cayuses flattered themselves with a certainty of success against the Bostons (Americans) intend marching through the country of the Sklos and other Indians who did not take up arms in their behalf; killing them off, then going down on the north side of the River to the Boston settlements. The news I learn is from the Sklo Indians, which no doubt the Cayuse told them.

In a few days the Sklo Indians will be in again, and we may learn something more especially if an engagement has taken place. The news sheets for next week convey them with great rapidity.

× × We are troubled daily with the friendly Indians asking for papers to go to Vancouver but of late refused, as we believe their intentions are not good. We cannot divulge anything else than to furnish themselves with Communications, as they have often asked for it of us pretending to be "friends" (afraid).

B. Jennings

A. B. Hg

Waiilatpa, March 10, 1848

William Craig.

You are hereby appointed Agent among the Nez Perces Indians, and as such you will afford them all the assistance in your power.

x x x x

You will take charge of the premises formerly occupied by Rev. H. H. Spalding and preserve the property.

x x x x x

Joel Palmer
Supt. I. Affrs

Oregon City, March 11, 1846

Sir:

I wrote you under date of De. 25, and Jan. 26, both of which failed to reach you. I now send them for Brig Henry, and with this the Spectator. We do not know whether we can detach the different tribes from the Cayuses or not, but hope for the best.

Please dispatch the letters to the Commodore as early as possible, also one directed to Congress. The latter contains our Memorial, and we wish it to reach the States early as possible.

Geo Abernethy
Gov.

A.B. Magone
Sec. Ter.

(Overlooked) 135

Fort Wascopam, Feb 7, 1848.

A. L. Lovejoy
Acty. Supt. x x x x

We have had some fighting and obtained considerable property from the Indians. Unfortunately we have lost 5 men, one by accident, being shot by the guard, having inprudently approached the sentinel in such a manner & in dress as to believe he was an Indian, his name was Alexander McDonald. James Packwood and — Jackson were killed by the Indians during our absence on Des Chutes river. They were stationed as with others as horse guards, some distance from the Fort, and seeing some horses at a distance, they went to drive them in, when they were killed. There is no doubt the Indians were lying in wait for them x x

The difficulty of keeping the property obtained from the enemy was so great, that Col Wilkinson determined to sell it, and now awaits receive a report from Paymaster Rogers. x The property amounts to $1,200 x

Ralph Wilcox
Acty. Surg.

P.S. — Farmer Mott is in a hole up stairs

he heard of the express being dispatched to Califo
fornia and the States. I endeavour to comfort him
by saying that if he gets beat in the race, he will
make the best show when he gets there. There is
no doubt we shall have some hard fighting,
but our boys are the right stripe.

In the action on Des Chutes river, we had no
only to fight the Indians, but to climb a tre-
mendious steep rocky mountain. There is no
doubt some men killed but impossible to
tell how many. Only one "Bostin" wounded.

Wilcox.

Oregon City, March 17, 48

Sir; × × ×

I regret as many were wounded, but hope they may all recover. × × The Indians have learned by this time that the Americans are not women, and I think their feelings will change with the probabilities, that the warm reception they intended to give ours, has been returned with such hearty interest, and will be the means of concluding a peace with the tribes. Fear will deter them from uniting with the Cayuses, × × ×

I think the Brig. Henry will be in the days from this, and I hope we shall immediately get aid from California

× × ×

Lee Abernethy

Col Gilliam,

Whitman's Station April 2, 55

Sir: × × × ×

In the battle that was fought about the time you left, it is said that 4 Indians were killed and 14 wounded. I hear that Ellis is dead, and that all of his Indians have died with the measels. The wounded have returned home, but it is not known what they will do. × ×

They say that the Cayuses came and camped close to them and they could not get clear of them. Tom-Cross is laying at the point of death, he is with Joseph. Dan-Sucky is on the wound Route on his way to Fort Hall. Joe. Lewis and Teat-ki-kes's two sons are going to get the Mormons. The young Chiefs Tout, Slickus &c. is going into the Mountains to stay until the war is over. The other Cayuses are with the Palluses and a few Cultus (no account) Nez Perces, is waiting for the arrival of the Americans to fight them one Nine, then leave for the buffalo Country, and abandon theirs. × The reports come from the Walla Wallas. Mel-ep-tin-leake, has arrived at Walla Walla and delivered all the horses and cattle in his forse-

~~Sioux~~ Wm Craig.

Wailetpa, May 5, 1848

Sir: x x x x

The Indians in this quarter have changed their sentiments somewhat. The Young Chief and his band, Old Ski, Skit, Stickas, Camaspelo ~~Tellus~~, and their people have moved into the Umatilla, they all profess friendship; but my word for it, they are our worst enemies. They ~~x~~ flavio in that Vicinity are armed with stock and have strong reasons to believe that the murderers stock is kept there,

We have had Wallupatolik a prisoner at this Fort for the last 10 days and will keep him until your arrivax Several of the principal men of the Nez Perce nation have returned from the Mountains, and came down here with the view of having a big talk with our great Chief, and make a Chief among them in the place of Ellis, whose father is now here with the rest awaiting your arrivalx x x

They propose to render assistance in bringing the guilty to justice, x x In my mind the best of feeling has not existed among them x The friendly reception the Nez Perces met with here

wco anything but gratifying to the Caynes, and one of them, no later than last night, threatened the life of old Fowler at the Fort Gate, because he was fighting for the Britons. I heard of it in a few minutes but he slipped.

× × × × ×

One of our men died on the 28th of inflammation of the brain. × × ×

I would not send this to you, but for the purpose of gratifying an Indian who wishes to meet you. × × ×

James Watts
Lt. Col.

Tshimakain, May 18, 1848

Col. Lee:

I have this P.M., arrived from Colville, and had been here but a few minutes when your letter was received. × ×

The Spokane Indians are not entirely harmonious, though I am not aware that any of them are disposed to favor the Murderers. I shall endeavor to be on the lookout, and to give you any information, I at any time may obtain which promises to facilitate the accomplishment of your object viz: the restoration of peace.

× × × ×

Cushing Eells

Letters in Regard

to

Oregon War.

1848.

Oregon City, June 15, 48

Sir: × × ×

× × × On receipt of this you will hold a Council with the Supt. of Ind. Affs. and come to a decision in regard to remaining in the upper country × In order that the remainder may return without delay, I would recommend that one Company of 85 men of rank and file be formed out of the volunteers that may offer their services to remain until the U.S. troops arrive.

Of this Company, 15 could be stationed at Fort Lee, and 40 at Fort Waters, & the latter 40 or 50 could proceed at the proper time to meet the emigrants ×

A company under Capt. Scott will leave the head of this valley in time to meet the emigrants on the Southern route × I think treaties can be made holding the Chiefs responsible and protect the emigration from molestation

× × × ×

Gen Abernethy

Col. Waters,

Oregon City, June 29, 1848.

Sir;

Having recently taken an important step, about the legality of which I have some doubts, I beg leave to submit the case to you and ask some expression upon it.

On the return of the regiment from the Nez Perce country to Fort Waters and previous, a detail for retaining possession of that post being made, a council of the officers was held by the request of some of the Captains, as I learned from Col. Waters. The following officers were present: Col. Waters, Commanding Capts. Hall, Thompson, Mayon, Owens, Morton, Pugh, Nesmith, Burnett and Shaw, myself as Supt. of Indian Affairs. In the council the question arose, "Shall we keep possession of Fort Waters?" After some discussion a vote was taken which resulted as follows, yeas, 6, nays, 6. The question being decided in the negative, arrangements were made for the immediate abandonment of the Fort. I requested that a call should be made for the volunteers, which was ordered — but again countermanded, and preparations were made to leave.

Knowing that such a step would be a yielding up of the little advantage we had gained

over the enemy, And believing that it would not only be a violation of general orders, but a matter of disappointment to the people in the valley; I resolved to make one more effort, and to make that successful. I found it necessary to pledge myself to give to some prominent and responsible Man, a written authority to enlarge the County immediately, and in the articles to secure them, as far as in my power, against future treaty stipulations prejudicial to their interest. This pledge was accordingly made in good faith to Capt. P. F. Thompson of Burnside, Col. James Taylor of Clatsop and their associates. I consequently stand pledged to these men for the authority referred to above.

A call was then made for 50 volunteers to remain until Sept. 15th, next, with a promise from Capt. Thompson and others that they would return by that time with families to settle the country, and I am truly glad to say that this call was successful, and more than was required volunteered.

The point upon which I wish an expression from you, is, the <u>loyality</u> or <u>Constitutionality</u>

of my granting such authority. Of its expediency and utility I have no doubt.

Is the course to which I am pledged, be not a violation of any law, or any principle of our organic compact. Will you sanction the proceedings, and give to the promised instrument the benefit of an authority of your approbation?

H. A. L. Lee.

To Lew Cass, Attorney, Supt. Ind. Affrs.

Reply.

Oregon City, June 30, 48

Sir:

I received yours of yesterday, x x
And in answer would state, I do not think
there is anything in the step taken by you
to induce volunteers to remain at Waiilat-
pu, (Fort Walla) that is unconstitutional or
contrary to the Organic Law. The law
does not limit the settlers to any particu-
lar section of Oregon, and although I
would consider it impolitic to occupy
the lands of friendly Indians east of
the Cascade Mountains at the present time,
I can see no impropriety in occupy-
ing the country of the Murderers, pro-
vided the party occupying is strong enough
to protect themselves, and maintain peace
with their neighbors. The land occupied by
the American Board should be respected;
they came out and located there under the
sanction of the American Government, and
although they have been driven from it by

the last proceedings of the Indians, they may hereafter wish to return and use the Mills, farm, &c.

I presume however, before that day comes, the jurisdiction of the United States Government will have been extended over it.

To

H. A. Lee

Gen. Abernethy

Fort Wales, June 11, 48

Col. Lee,

Maj. Mason ~~and~~ with his command arrived yesterday with Gen. Ellis and Walker and families, and start tomorrow for the valley.

× × × Capts. Owens and Mason left yesterday with their companies. × ×

We have now 58 Men to hold this country.

× ×

James Keller — Q. M.

Fort Walla, July 1st 48

Col. Lee.

× × × × You are aware probably that at this season of the year the Indians always prepare food for winter. On the 28th ult. two friendly Cayuses came in from Grand Ronde. They stated that they knew nothing of the Murderers, except by the Snake Indians, who say that they are between Burnt River and Fort Boise. I have heard nothing from the Nez Perces as yet, but perhaps will soon. I am anxious to hear from the Willamette in regard to Calvary- ing this part of the Country.

I hear that the Catholic Priest has taken a claim at Waiilatpam for Wheat pur- poses ×

We expect Mr. Craig in a few days.

× × ~

Perrin B. Whitman,

Fort Walla, July 4, 1848.

Col. Lee.

We have just Conducted our Celebration of this 72nd National day. × ×

On 28th "Richard" and "The Red Wolf" arrived from the Nez Perces country on their way to Walla Walla. Three Teeathas and others, went to the first Gates way of Touchet. They bring news that 5 Nez Perces have lately been Killed by the Snakes and that it will bring an immediate war, and that the Nez Perces had sent to the buffalo Country for them perfly.

The remains of two Indians were found on Boise river (I believe) also three horses, guns, &c. × It is supposed that if it be true, they were two murderers who accompanied Jno. Lewis, under the pretence of going to the Mammoth ×

× × × Perrin B Whitman

Fort Walla, July 5, 1848

Col. Lee. x x x

Having a favorable opportunity of giving you some information concerning Indian affairs in this vicinity, and their conduct towards a settlement of our difficulties; Wa-lep-to-lekt some days since made his appearance among the Indians on the Des Chutes, armed with his instructions from you concerning the settlement of his debt and his claim upon those Indians for assistance. He took a bold stand and seemed bent upon a speedy settlement, but unfortunately found but few who he could lay a just claim. He told them that he would return again as soon as they returned from Camas digging. He procured a few good horses for some trifling articles taken from wagons at Borlon's gate, by the Wai-am Indians. He also promised to call the Indians together en-masse and demand a speedy settlement in full. x x x x x

Se-ha-cho-ka, a chief of the Wai-am Indians in conjunction with the Nez Perces Indians have brought in several head of horses that was lost by the army in crossing the Mountains, with some stolen cattle in from the

begins at Bahni's Lat. x x x x

The Indians seem to be exerting themselves to prevent harmony, and have a better idea of the rights of property.

x x Mr. Louis La Plant, states that he heard that Tenbyguit and his party have stationed themselves along the emigrant road between Burnt and Powder rivers to horse the trains as they passed through, and intended to stop the U.P.R.R. Co's. express, but recognizing Mr. Clarimed who was accompanied by his family, they were allowed to pass unmolested.

x x x

The Priest are still here ministering their arm for the purpose of building it, but not teaching any at present,

x x

H. Saffarans
Ind. Agent, for Washington

1565

Letter in Regard

to

Oregon War.

1848

Mission of St. Francis Xavier,
August 31st 1848.

Sir:— I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of 25th inst. to which I hasten to reply.

You inform me that you have taken the most effective measures in your power to prevent a certain quantity of ammunition and arms which Mr. Switzler had conveyed to the Dalles for the Jesuits, from falling into the hands of the Indians, and that his Excellency the Governor, has ordered the officer in command at the Dalles to take possession of the said Ammunition and arms. I respect the step taken by his Excellency, as he has deemed it prudent for the well being of the country under the circumstances. I do not object to his so doing, provided that his Excellency does not thereby intend to deprive me of the right and title of those articles, or to confiscate them under pretext, that they were absurdly conveyed to the Indians country contrary to law. I insist, therefore, that these articles are to continue to be the property of the Jesuits, and that they are to be returned to them as soon as circumstances shall permit their conveyance to their destination. I can have no objection to have them examined

Vancouver until we be granted the permission of forwarding them to our Mission.

I would have you observe, Sir; that the law does not prohibit the transportation of arms and ammunition through the Indian Country, but only the traffic of these articles. I fear therefore, that you are mistaken in imagining that these arms and ammunition have been sent into the Indian country in violation to the laws of the Land.

You are already aware of the reasons which induced the Flat Head Missionary to forward this customary annual supply of ammunition. These reasons have been published in the Oregon Free Press of the 26th inst. It is therefore in vain to hope, I might almost say the certainty assurance, that at the next session of the Legislature, an exception would be made in favor of the Flat Head, and other such friendly Indians. This explanation alone might prove satisfactory, or that you be not longer at a loss to conjecture the object in attempting to introduce them into the Indian Country at this particular time. Particularly when you are apprized that the ammunition was sent to

be distributed immediately, but was to be reserved in depot till permission should be granted to allow of its distribution; and that it was not destined for the use of the enemies of the whites but for the service of the bravest and best friends you and I have west of the Rocky Mountains These friendly Indians live so remote from the hostile Indians, that communication between the former does not even touch upon the lands of the latter; so that in the expedition, there was no danger of it falling into the hands of the hostile Indians. The custom of distributing ammunition among the Indians has continued uninterrupted since the establishment of the Catholic Missionaries among them to the present, in order that by shooting down game, they might the Missionaries and themselves with the means of subsistance, and also might defend themselves against the hostile tribes. Much also, of this ammunition is to be distributed among the whites and half breeds employed about the Missions in part payment of their wages. Please also bear in mind that a large portion of this am-

Ammunition was destined for New Caledonia, situated in the British Dominions, where we have a very scrupulous and extensive Mission consisting of about 5,000 natives. Subtracting then the quantity of ammunition to be forwarded to New Caledonia, and dividing the remainder among the five other Missions of the Society Mountains, you may perceive that the portion allotted to each Mission is very inconsiderable, and should not excite any jealousies against us.

With respect to the advice you gave me, "That there is now excitement and bitter feeling against the Catholics as a body than ever has existed in Oregon;" I believe the fact, yes Sir; I presume that you who dwell on the spot, and who have had an opportunity of seeing how things have been, and who are not biassed by prejudice, I presume that you and all sensible citizens know that it is not through any fault of the Catholics if this fact exists, that Catholics have done nothing to cause excitement or to merit bitter feelings against them, and that the fact is based only upon misinformed suspi-

cious growing out of unjust prejudices and a grovelling jealousy.

I thank you for your frankness, and I will not fail to profit by your advice wherever circumstances shall allow me; and I can assure you that I, as well as all the Priests, will beware of doing ~~any~~ anything that may be incentive to violence disorder, or to evade or circumvent the laws of the land. I hope you will give me credit for the freedom of my expressions, and that contrary with the severity of the intentions of the Catholic Priests, you will no longer be surprised at my singular proceedings, but labor with all benevolent citizens to anticipate all unfortunate effects of the excitement, which is so unjustly raised against the Catholics, is the confidence with which I have the honor to remain Sir

Your Obt. Servt.

M. Accolti
(Accolti)

To

H. A. S. Lee
Supt Indian Affrs.

Instructions to Emigrants,

By an Act of the Legislature of Oregon, it is made the duty of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, to give to persons immigrating into the Valley of the Willamette, such instructions and advice, in reference to their intercourse with the Indian tribes along the road, as he shall deem necessary to the safety of the emigrants and the maintenance of peace with the Indians. In discharging that duty at present, it is believed that the Superintendent cannot do better, than to furnish you the accompanying copy bill, and give you a brief statement of our present relations with the Indians.

With the Cayuses, through whose territory the old or Northern route passes, we are at open hostilities — and their territory is the seat of war. The Indians inhabiting the country along the Columbia river from the territory of the Cayuses to the Dalles are also in arms against us, in alliance with the Cayuses.

We have two Military posts within the country of the enemy. One in the Cayuse country and the other at the Dalles, 150 miles west of the

former. Up to this time, we have succeeded in keeping the war in their own Country, which on
now proves, Driven from their own Country, the
Cayuses will doubtless disperse themselves through
other tribes in order to form alliances and recruits. And should they succeed, in exciting to
hostilities the Snakes and other Indians living
along the old road, you will find yourselves
in a hostile country beyond the influence of
our forces How far the spirit of war may be
spread by the war party, cannot be even guessed
at with any degree of certainty.

With the Indians along the Southern route, we
have no understanding, and but little acquaint-
ance. They are about 250 miles south of the Cay-
use Country; ~~Have~~ x x they are treacherous and
even hostile when they are not awed by our
superior forces. They are however less warlike than
the more northern tribes and not so well armed
having comparatively but few firearms, as to
the Chiefs of the two routs, aside from the In-
dians, it may be sufficient to say that the last
immigration divided, and the party on the south-
ern road were more successful in getting their

property into the settlements than those who took the old road. The presence of U.S. Troops will serve your safety on either road.

In their absence, it will be necessary on the old road, and prudent on the new one, to organize yourselves into regular Military Companies, and Consider yourselves Soldiers in An enemies Country, and your families and property, as your ordinance and baggage train.

Give no unnecessary offence to the Indians but above all, give them no reason to think you fear them. Experience has taught us that the best way to keep the Indians really friendly, is to keep them afraid of us.

(The above is in Col. Lee's handwriting but not signed. J.H.B.)

Col. Lee resigned as Supt. Ind. Affairs Sept. 4th 1848. He states in his resignation that there was no funds to meet the expences and the feeling was such that he could not attend to the office.

Captain Felix Scott.

Captain of Independent Rifle Rangers.

Sub Indian Agent, Southwestern District.

Oregon City, April 10, 1848.

Capt. Felix Scott

You are hereby appointed and constituted Indian Agent for Willamette Valley in which capacity it will be your ~~duty~~ prerogative and duty to hear, determine and settle all disputes and differences that may arise between the whites and Indians, so far as the same shall be referred to you or otherwise come to your knowledge, according to such instructions as you shall from time to time receive from the Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

For the present you will observe the following rules. Viz:

1st When an Indian claims anything from a white man as pay for the land enclosed within the enclosure or other improvements of the white man; you will first ascertain the individual right of the Indian claimant to the particular spot in question,

and satisfy yourself that he is the proper owner. Then get him and the white man together and assess the damages done, get them to agree if possible upon the amount to be paid, and when paid, see that a receipt is given in presence of at least one good witness. If the parties cannot agree as to the amount call in two or three discreet men to settle it for them.

2d. Where a white man claims something from an Indian as pay for property stolen or destroyed by the Indian, satisfy yourself by calling in testimony, that the particular Indian charged is guilty.—then assess and settle as above. Keeping always in view the peace and quiet of the neighborhood and the mutual rights of the parties concerned, together with the unhappy state of our relations with the Indians generally at present.

× × × × × H. A. G. Lee

Supt. Indian Affairs O. T.

P.S.

× × × × It is my duty to inform you, that at present there is no appropriation made by law for the pay of that department. It is confidently believed however, that a reasonable compensation can be raised by subscription until an appropriation be made. In connection

with this subject it is desirable that an <u>inde-</u>
<u>pendent</u> volunteer company be raised to act a
rangers in defence of the Southern frontier set-
tlements and that you should be the comman
er of that company. The Governor is ready to
commission such officers so soon as elected.

I have the hon to be,
H. A. S. Lee Asst &c—

Oregon City, July 7, 1848.

Capt. Scott:

You are hereby authorized to officiate in your
capacity of Indian Agent, with all the Indian
tribes through whose territory you may pass in
going to escort the emigrants ~~on~~ on the Southern
route, You will exercise your discretion in the
capacity. x x x x I have every reason to
believe the Waynes will be along both roads in
order to supply themselves with ammunition.
Impress on emigrants their danger.

H. A. S. Lee Asst. A. G. T.

Yamhill April 14, 1848.

Captain Scott accepted his commission.

Salem May 5. 1848.

Adj. Genl. — Sir

I have made one tour through the valley, and learned that most of the Indians have gone to Umpqua Valley. I only found fifty Indians. Promised to give up the cattle thieves. Rain retards harvest cannot start to meet emigrants before 10 July. with only 15 men

Philip Sever

Oregon City May 12, 1

Genl Lee

As I proceeded up the valley, I found the population excited in consequence of the thefts and robberies committed by the Indians. The whites have flogged some of the Indians, and by resolutions sent to the Gov. declared their intention in case of further robberies to punish them with death. I advised them to wait until they could hear from the Gov.

The Gov. has ordered out any company of Rangers to protect the frontier settlements. Will start with 15 or 20. The killing of the Klamaths at Umlally has had the effect of causing several robberies in the upper Willamette valley. 65 horses were stolen from a small company from California. The Gov. ordered me to leave sufficient force to protect the settlements then proceed to meet emigrants.

H. Lee

Lovejoy

Yamhill June 21, 48

I left Salem on ~~the~~ 5th with 16 men and proceeded up the valley, when near Calapooia I learned that the Indians had robbed a house of clothing and spent two days searching Indian Camps between Santiam and McKinzies fork of Willamette but found nothing. At Lyons ferry on (Willamette) I learned that the Indians had stolen a horse two days before. I devided my men, 8 with Lt. English and 8 with myself. English followed the trail, while I went across to head them on the Klamath trail in the Cascade Mountain. I followed the trail 30 miles—no sign— English rounded them as they left horses and two of them ran. McAllies stole clothing, Klamath the horse. I then directed the most of my company to pursue cattle thieves while I returned home for supplies.

F. Scott

June 28 48

Lovejoy

× × × × Caught the thieves and punished them

F. Scott.

over

In September, 1858 Cook, Kelly & Co and seven
other persons were murdered near Grand Lake
and several thousand Dollar's worth of shoveled
horses captured. Other parties were also robbed
of much valuable property struck at the same
time x Col C. S. Drew report & Lea Wright, page
58, of Com. Indian Affairs for 1863x

Memorial to Congress.

Passed July 26th 1849.

The within was forwarded to Honorable Samuel R. Thurston, but was never published. It is claimed to be the basis of the Donation and School Section law.

To the Congress of the United States.

Your Memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of Oregon, Constitutionally organized on the 16th day of July, A.D. 1849, for themselves and on behalf of the free citizens of Oregon present to your the Hand of Fellowship and friendship.

In remembrance of the various relations which we sustain to our fellow citizens of the States; we retain an anxious hope for the prosperity of our common country, and acknowledge that Providential Care, which has protected and guarded us-to our present and enviable prosperous condition.

Oregon needs not, at this day to be brought to your notice. The eyes of the Nations of the Earth are upon her, and she requires but your fostering care, to become one of the most distinguished States in the Federal Union. She leans, therefore confidently upon your justice and liberality.

Your Memorialists would however remark, that the internal and external interests of Oregon, are so Varied and

numerous, and so little legislation in regard to them hitherto had, that the objects of your care have accumulated.

Land Grant.

Your Memorialists would most respectfully request a grant of 640 acres of land to each actual settler, including widows and orphans. In expectation of a section of land, claims have been taken, and improvements made, corresponding, in square or oblong form.

Your Memorialists respectfully request that grants may be made to conform to the claims and improvements of settlers. But Congress, in its wisdom, deem it indispensible that the public lands be surveyed, and grants made by subdivision, it is earnestly prayed, that as in case of Preemption rights in the States; the settler may be permitted to take in subdivisions as low as 20 acres, so as to include his improvement and claim, without regard to section or township lines.

Your Memorialists, on behalf, and in the name of the good people of Oregon, would respectfully state that this grant has long been expected. Indeed, the ex-

spectation was originated before your Memorialists left their places of Residence in the States. With such expectations, they emigrated to Oregon. They have never ceased to have Confidence in the Mother government which has bestowed so many blessings upon her Citizens.

Your honorable bodies are not strangers to the causes of our expectations, while we are happy in having been able to effect the object, which the parent government had in settling Oregon. And though settlements were made under circumstances of so much hardship and distress, the objects accomplished to the government, will, no doubt, be productive of the happiness of Millions unborn. The loss by emigrants to Oregon, was very great, and generally far exceeded the most gloomy picture.

Your Memorialists would bring to your notice, the fact that in most instances, emigrants lost much of their property, and in many instances, all; being Compelled, from weak teams, accidents, and other Causes, to throw away property, piece after another, until life alone, was

left. Sickness, perishing for want of food and Water, were no uncommon occurrences. Your Memorialists honestly and truly think that one section of land, on an average, will not more than pay the loss sustained in coming to Oregon. Your Memorialists hope they will not be disappointed in expecting a donation of land.

Cayuse War Debt.

Your Memorialists would further request an appropriation of $190,000, for the payment of the expenses incurred in prosecuting a war of defence against the Cayuse Indians. The circumstances attending the outrage at Wailaptah have no parallel in the history of Indian Warfare. Justice demanded that these Indians be punished, while policy, that they be made to respect the rights of American citizens.

No alternative was left the Provisional Government, but to declare War, Had those outrages been committed within reach of the Government of the United States, little less than Extermination Could have given satisfaction. It was in defence of American soil, and American citizens, that war Was declared and prosecuted, The lives of American citizens had been taken in cold blood; women and children taken prisoners—gross

by insulted and abused. Co-operation was being effected amongst various tribes, for the purpose of cutting off the entire white settlements in Oregon, which nothing but timely interference was likely to prevent. War threatened us on almost every side, while delay invited hostilities to our own fires. The war therefore, necessarily carried into the enemies country. The settler — the grey-headed, and the stripling, alike regardless of the mountain snows & the valley rains, repaired to the seat of war. The widows portion, the orphans support — declining age, with its little accumulated through years of toil, as well as the only horse and blanket of the young emigrant, were all generously and cheerfully brought forward, and placed at the disposal of our government. There means have been used. The debts are due, And creditors are in want of them. We have not the means of paying the debt. The present population cannot pay it, and the Organic Law will not allow us to borrow it. Where, we ask them, shall it come from? We must earnestly appeal to you, in this, our day of trouble for aid and counsel. And though the army did not accomplish all that

under other circumstances, it would have done, yet nothing but the most distinguished bravery characterized its movements. Peace was restored, Families and friends restored to each other, and the Indians made to respect the American arms

Provisional Government Debt.

Your Memorialists would respectfully request an appropriation of $10,000, to pay the Territorial debt of Oregon, remaining unpaid at the time of the extension of the laws of the United States. It is not considered necessary to advise you of the history of the Provisional Government, nor of the embarrassments attending it through a period of several years. To you, no doubt, it is neither strange nor unexpected, that a small debt, like this should have accumulated. Weak and ill-y calculated as that Government was, Society was regulated, and institutions grew up under it, calculated to promote the general welfare.

Public Buildings.

Your Memorialists respectfully request an appropriation of $20,000, for the erec-

tion of buildings, suitable for the transaction of business, at the seat of government, and the grant of a section of land upon which to erect the same. This is no more than in accordance with your kindness to other Territories.

Your Memorialists would suggest the propriety of an appropriation to defray the expense of erecting a penitentiary. The interest of the United States perhaps would seem to urge the appropriation as strongly as the Territorial government. We shall be more than fortunate if situated upon the coast of the great Pacific such a building should not be required by the United States.

Sections 16 and 36.

It is quite evident that sections 16 and 36 will fall upon some settler, and though they can only only fall upon one five settlers in each township, none can tell beforehand upon whom the lot may fall. Your Memorialists would earnestly recommend, that a law be passed, authorizing the township authorities, if the settler desires, to select other lands in case when the survey shall thus direct

of said sections upon his claim.

School Lands.

Your Memorialist viewing the education and intelligence of the citizens, as one of the sure foundations upon which rests our Republican institutions, would direct your attention to the fact, that by the Distribution Act of Congress, 500,000 acres of land is given each new State on coming into the Union, By a wise provision of the Constitution of a State, lately admitted, this land referred to, is secured for the use of schools, and together with the 16th section makes a school fund, the advantages of which the present generation cannot calculate.

Your Memorialist request the passage of an act, authorizing the Territory to select the land referred to, immediately on the survey of the lands, and also, authorizing its appropriation to the support of Common Schools, The prosperity of any early selection of this land is obvious, and no doubt will greatly add to the Value of the fund. Your Memorialist repeat, that they must earnestly urge the proposed measure, Roads

may get out of repair without endangering our civil and religious freedom, but a neglect of the virtue, and intelligence of the citizens, may be its overthrow. We trust, therefore, that in lending our energies thus early to the subject of education, we may have your hearty concurrence.

Military Roads.

Your Memorialists respectfully call your attention to the propriety of opening a Military road from Puget Sounds to some point on the Columbia river below the Cascades. One from Puget Sound to a point on the Columbia near Walla Walla; and one from The Dalles of the Columbia to the Willamette Valley. Your consideration is respectfully invited to the propriety of an exploration of the route for a road from the Oregon road on Bear river, north of the great Salt Lake, to Ogden's or Mary's river, crossing the Blue Mountains north of the Klamath Lake, and passing near Mt. Jefferson, entering the Willamette settlement by way of the Santiam river. The proposed road would probably shorten the route, and bring the emigrants directly into the heart of Oregon.

Territorial and Post Roads,

x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

(Nos material).

Falls of the Willamette

(Appropriation asked for)

Removal of Indians.

Your memorialists invite your attention to the fact, that they are now scattered through the white settlements, various tribes and fractions of tribes of Indians, In this situation they cannot be protected

x x The extinguishment of their titles and a removal is respectfully urged to your consideration.

Postage

x x The propriety of having letters to Oregon subject to the same postage as those within the States.

Puget Sound Agricultural Company.

Your Memorialists wish the attention of your honorable body to be directed to a matter of difficulty, between American citizens and "Puget Sound Agl. Co," in relation to the extent of their claims, The Co. claims a large tract of country enclosed by arbitrary and unmeaning lines and denies the right of citizens to locate on said lands, Your petitioners contend that they have no right to any lands but such as

at the time of ratification of the Oregon Treaty. ~~It~~ x x We
pray you to purchase the land which Hud Co. held by treaty,

Pacific Railroad.

Your Memorialists deem it necessary to urge the
construction of a railroad to the Pacific coast, and
consider it as one of great national importance.

Telegraph

While news by telegraph is communicated
to every section of the States, Oregon and Cal-
ifornia, are as yet unprovided for. x x x
We doubt not, that in many instances, a single com-
munication with telegraphic dispatch, might save
to the government the expense of the whole. x x
x x

Passed July 26th 1849 C. M. Walker
Chief Clerk
Wm. Porter
Chief Clerk.

1849

Oregon Mint.

Petitions, Memorials &c.

1849

Also

Memorial for National Railroad.

Oregon Mint.

Petition.

To the Honorable Legislature of Oregon Ter.

We the undersigned petitioners of Oregon Territory, respectfully represent to your Honorable body, that in consequence of the failure or neglect of the government of the United States to extend her jurisdiction and protection over this long neglected Territory; the time has arrived when the people through their representatives should act with firmness and decision for the protection of their interests, against the combined monopolies of ~~co~~ that the wheat and gold dust trade. We your petitioners are of the opinion that the only rational method of curing a disease, is to remove the cause, The cause being the scarcity of coined money in the hands of the people; and to remove that cause, we petition your Honorable body to establish a Mint in Oregon Territory for the coinage of gold to be equal in fineness to the gold coin of the United States, and to be a lawful tender in the payment of debts, and to place such safeguards and restrictions around said Mint as you may

in your wisdom deem best, and also to regulate the price of uncoined gold dust.

(The above was signed by 72 citizens)

× × × × × the propriety of establishing a branch mint in Oregon Territory for the following reason! 1st That there is at the present time $2.000.000 in gold dust, and that the amount is increasing by the daily return of our citizens from the California mines.

2d The inconveniences and loss resulting in circulating this precious metal in its original state for the business transactions of this colony.

3d Our proximity to the California mines, from which there will be a continued import for the purchase of products of our fertile soil.

These are few of our reasons for your movement. &c.

The Legislature on the 16th of February 1849 passed an act "For the weighing and assaying of gold, and melting and stamping the same;" *

* See Law page 58 General and Local Laws, published 1853 by A. Bush Territorial Printer.

Hon Mechanic Crawford a member of the Provisional Government Legislature filed the following protest:

"I vote no on the passage of "An act providing for the Weighing and assaying of gold, and Melting and stamping the same.

1st Because the coining of money is contrary to the Constitution of the United States, which as an American citizen, I am sworn to support,

2d Because I believe that an officer from the United States will soon be here, when doubtless it will be to prohibit the operations of the mint

3d Because I believe it is unexpedient for the faith of this Territory to be pledged for the amount necessary to put this mint in operation inasmuch as it will be discontinued immediately upon the arrival of an officer from the United States.

(Signed) Wm. Crawford

The mint was subsequently by the Gov. was established in Idaho Ter. Mint.

The act passed and the mint was established and would refer you to a letter sent to Hon. S. C. Way Secretary of State, by John S. Campbell, and published in Secretary's report of 1866, page 56.

over

No. 3252. Memorandum of Gold bullion deposited at the Mint of the United States, at Philadelphia, the 27th day of June, 1850 by Campbell, Martin & Co.

Description of bullion	Weight Before Melting		Weight After Melting		Fineness	Silver parting	Value of the Gold.		Val of Silver		Deductions parting and allay		Net Value	
	Ounces	Dec.	Ounces	Dec.	1000ths	1000ths	Dollars	Cents	Dollars	Cent	Dollars	cts	Dol.	cts.
Gro. Col.	169	24	167	52	882	109	3.054	33	23	61	12	87	3,165	07
Coin, Oregon	7	89	7	89	885	—	144	35	—		—	—	144	35
Grs Col	12	57	12	18	871/2	—	219	42	—		—	—	219	42
	189	72	187	59	—	—	3,418	10	23	61	12	87	3,428	84

I certify that the net amount of the above deposit is Three thousand, four hundred and twenty-eight dollars and eighty-four cents, payable at the Mint, conformably to the terms of the receipts of a corresponding date and number, heretofore issued

(Signed) James Ross Snowden
Treas of Mint.
By Lew. N. Edelman

Showing the fruits of the Oregon Exchange Co. coin, Dec. B

J. L. Campbell certificat on file Sez. of State of Oregon at Salem, Ogn.

Oregon Exchange Company.

This was the assumed name of a company, or rather a partnership entered into in the spring of 1849, the object of the company was to coin money and issue the same on their own responsibility.

The Company consisted of Kilborn, Mc-Linder, Taylor, Campbell, Smith, Abernethy and Rector, their initials were stamped on the coin.

The origin of the company was a necessity, or at least thought to be, - at all events it accomplished the objects it sought, to prevent sharp speculators on gold dust, and furnish a better circulating medium.

It will doubtless be remembered by many of the first settlers of Oregon now living, that during the time of our Provisional government, there was virtually no money; in so much that the law-making power, passed a law making wheat and accepted orders on solvent merchants legal tenders.

In the summer of 1848, the news of the discovery of gold in California

reached Oregon, the excitement was so great that almost every man, old and young that could possess himself of a pair of Indian ponies, started for the Eldorado, over a trackless country of mountains and rivers, through hostile tribes of Indians in high hopes of fortune, or at least to better his condition. Many returned returned late in the fall and winter with more or less gold dust. Some more shrewd than others, had sold their gold in San Francisco for Mexican dollars at sixteen dollars per ounce. With this money they were able to press the price of gold dust to $14 per ounce, and even lower.

The Provisional government Legislature being in session, conceived the idea of passing a mint law with the view of coining the gold, but before it had time to go into effect, Governor Lane arrived with authority to organize a Territorial government, under the Constitution of the United States. This prevented the act from going into effect. But yet the necessity existed, for coining the gold, hence

the organizing the company to coin and issue the money on their own ~~account~~ responsibility x

There were but few mechanics in the country, and no machinists tools x How were we to make the coin? because the absorbing question

It was my fortune (whether good or bad, I have never been able to decide), to be a mechanic x Hence it devolved on me to get up the machinery for coining, of course it had to be wholely original, never having seen anything of the kind.

I obtained a little machine for turning rim amongst the effects of the Missionaries, by the aid of which I made the dies and other fixtures. The engraving was done by Mr. Hamilton Campbell. Then it answered to get the gold into a convenient shape for circulation.

The company employed me to do the coining x There was no attempt to assay for part the silver from the gold x In fact we did not know that there was any silver in it; although I soon found

that the gold was not all the same
Some was of a paler color and much
harder to work. We made all the same
weight without any regard to fineness.
We coined something near $30,000 in
$5,00 pieces, then made dies for $10,00
pieces. I have no recollection how much
we made, but it was less than the amount
of $5,00 pieces. Money was coming into
the Country plentifully, and there was
no longer any necessity for
coining, so we stopped operations.
I started at once for the mines, leav-
ing Col. Taylor in charge of the mint
machinery and I believe was President
of the Company
I afterward learned that Captain
Kilburn took the rolling mill to
Umpqua. John S. Campbell had
the dies the last that I know of
them. He promised to destroy them.
I do not know whether he did
or not. If they are in existence,
they are most likely among his
effects.

(Signed) Wm. H. Rector

The dies spoken of by Hon. Wm. Sexton have been placed in the custody of the Secretary of State of Oregon, also a $10.00 gold piece. I have made several impressions of the $10. and $5. dies in block tin, of which I presented Wm. Hubert H. Bancroft, a set. The coin as it was generally termed the "Beaver money" was all called in by the United States mint at San Francisco, and a premium was paid upon the same, as it contained more value than the amount indicated in the pieces.

J. Henry Brown

Plumbe's Project of a Railroad to the Pacific.

In 1836 the undersigned commenced (in pursuance of his own cost), the survey of a route for a national railroad from Lake Michigan to the Pacific, and directed public attention to the importance of the project, and in 1838 succeeded in obtaining from Congress an appropriation to defray the expenses of locating the first division of the line; and having ever since devoted his attention and exertions to the promotion of this great national object, now renews, as the most feasible mode of accomplishing it, his original proposition (as set forth in the following Memorial.

J. Plumbe.

Memorial for a National Railroad to the Pacific.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled:

Your undersigned Memorialist, in view of the unestimable importance to the Union and the world of a railroad to the Pacific (on the best route), respectfully asks for a Charter, as the Atlantic and Pacific National Railroad Company, and an adequate

quantity of public land, to enable them to construct this noble work.

1st. The grant to be conveyed no faster than the Road progresses; and represented by 20,000,000 shares; and every applicant for a single share, to be supplied before a greater number can issue to any; that all may equally participate in the control, honor, and profit, of this great American, popular enterprise.

2d. The Road to be managed by a Board of Directors, consisting of one, each, for the District of Columbia the States, and Territories.

3d. The United States to enjoy the free use of the Road for the transportation of her mails, &c.; and the right to purchase it, at any time, at a fair valuation.

4th. Newspapers and periodicals, and all engaged in "diffusion of knowledge among men," pay free. Twenty-five cents per share, paid in produce $6,000,000 to commence with; whilst the remaining public lands are enhanced in value, to the amount far exceeding that of the whole required grant; aside from all the other great advantages which the road secures to government.

And your Memorialist will ever pray &c.

Resolution of Robert Rowell, page 175 Congressional.

(In Congress bill defeated by the Southern Members who were afraid for slavery.)

S. R. Thurston

vs.

Hudson's Bay Company.

Washington, May 25, 1852.

Hon. Thos. Ewing
Secy. of Interior:

Sir:— We take the liberty to make to you the following representation and make the following request:

The Hudson's Bay Company make it their study to conciliate the Indians of the Territory of Oregon, and to the prejudice them against our people and government. To show you what we mean, allow us to say that a reward of 80 blankets was offered for the surrender of the Indians who Murdered Wallace as you have learned from Gov. Lane's report. Three blankets were bought of the H.B.Co., and when they were delivered by the Agent of the Company to the Indians, as per Gov. Lane's order, there Agents of the Co. represented to the Indians, and made them believe that three blankets were presented from the Hudsons Bay Co. Such is their Constant effort. We have therefore to request you, that you give instructions to the Gov. and all officers there having anything to do

with the Indian matters, & guard against this evil, and to take care, that all presents and goods given or paid to the Indians, pass through the hands of Americans, and be purchased of American traders.

The Company have directed, that the Indians expect cash for everything, refusing to take goods from Americans and American traders,- and as soon as they get the money, they go direct to the Hudson's Bay Co., stores and buy of them; and we desire moreover, that in treating with the Indians, that the considerations paid, shall be in useful articles which the Indians need, and not in cash, in whole or in part.

I have the honor &c.,

Samuel C. Thruston

The facts stated above are known to me in part, and my information derived from reliable sources as to the residue.

William P. Bryant

Department of the Interior
Office Indian Affairs
May 25, 1861.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose for your information and such action as you may think proper to take in reference thereto, a copy of a letter of this date from Hon. J. D. Thurston, to the Hon. Sec. of Interior, in regard to the course pursued by the Yuckemis Bay Company in inducing the Indians of that Territory against the American people and our government.

Respectfully &c
Orlando Brown

To John P. Hayes
Sec. of Regents

Oregon City, Sept. 7, 1850.

His Excellency
P. S. Dyallon, Gov. H.B.Co.

Sir:— I have the honor to enclose you with a copy of a letter from the Hon. S. R. Thurston Delegate from this Territory to Congress to the Legislature of Intervi of the 25th of May last. upon which is an endorsement requiring me to take measures to remedy the evils complained of.

I send you the communication in the confident hope, that such explanation may be made, as will be satisfactory to the Government and people of the U.S., and to assure you, that I am to cultivate friendly feelings with the Company over which you preside

I am &c
John P. Gaines,
Gov. of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, Sept. 5, 1852.

To Gov. Gaines, &c.

× × ×

The H. B. Coy. have made and do make, in the study to conciliate the Indians of the Territory of Oregon and elsewhere in the Vicinity of their trading posts. (but without prejudice × × ×

The H. B. Coy. did sell to Gov. Gaines, or to his Agent, or the Agent of the Government the 80 pcs. of blankets mentioned and obtained them by Gov. Gaines or his Agent. They surely are not responsible for the use made of them after the sale, and they deny emphatically the imputations of Gen. Lee, Thurston that "they reprimanded × × × × " but assert and will prove by the affidavit of their trader W. F. Tolmie, Esq. that the direction of the Indian Agent was minutely obeyed in regard to the blankets.

The H. B. Coy. do not presume or will not pretend to interfere with the American Govt., its agents or people, in their choice or discretion of Merchants from whom Indian goods may be purchased or the means they may see proper to take or prescribe in the distribution of Indian presents, nor, or the

can the H.B.Coy. compel the Indians of Oregon
to trade with any person in any portion in a
manner, as the consideration "exacted" by the In-
dians from Americans or others should be accep-
or wales, Cash or goods. The traders and agents of
the H.B. Coy. are acting for the Company only, and not
for any Government or people × × That the act-
of the H.B.Coy. are open to the strictest investigation
and the conduct and action post taken by their
agents in the unfortunate massacre of American
citizens and the rescue and preservation of the lives
of 54 individuals who were drowned to die, should
in itself, be fully sufficient to convince all un-
prejudiced men, that the accusations brought --
against them by the Hon. S.C. Thurston are destit-
tute of truth.

As the suspended transaction took place at Fort
Nisqually, I shall insert the same without
loss of time & W.F. Tolmie, Esq and request him
to forward affidavits, which I am confident, shall
ing his upright and honorable character will fully
refute. [illegible]

I am &c,

Peter Skeen Ogden

H.B.Coy

Fort Nisqually, Sept. 13, 1850

Peter Skeen Ogden,

× × × × Sir, × × × ×

I wrote to from Capt. Hill yesterday, and proposed
My readiness to depose on oath that I had never
represented to the Indians that the 80 blankets given
to the Skwoyaltinnis tribe on the surrender of the
Indians accused of the Murder of Wallace, were
a present from the Hudson B. Coy. but Capt. Hill de-
clined receiving my affidavit on the plea that he was
not a Justice of the Peace. My reply having to be at
Fort Vancouver by the 18th inst. did not permit my going
in quest of a Magistrate, I therefore addressed a letter
to Capt. Hill enclosing for his perusal copies of all
the correspondence × × × From Capt. Hill's reply, it
will be seen that no such a report as that given
out by Mr. Thornton was ever heard on the
Puget Sound, for if anything of the sort had
transpired, no person residing in this neighbor-
hood would have had earlier information of it
than Capt. Hill himself.

From the 1st of May, when the unfortunate
Wallace was Murdered, till the 4th of Oct, when
the Murderers were executed, I incurred a great

deal of trouble and some risk in negotiating between the U.S. authorities, and the then hostile tribes of Indians; and I can honestly and without assumption avow, that it was mainly through my exertions and influence with the natives that the scenes of an Indian war was in the summer of 1849, averted from the Puget Sound settlements, defenceless as they then were. Such then, having been my share in the transactions of Indian affairs in Puget Sounds during the year 1849, it is indeed annoying to be called upon to rebut such ridiculous charge as I must take leave to call that made against me, x x x x

x x x

William Fraser Tolmie
C. F., M.B., Edin.

Steilacoom, Puget Sound,
Oregon Territory
Sept. 12, 1852.

Sir: x x x x

A few days after My arrival on the Sound, in Aug. 1849, I received a letter from J. Quinn Thornton, Esq. Sub. Indian Agent, informing me that he had offered to the Snoqualmie tribe of Indians, 50 blankets, if within a certain time 6 Indians whom he named as concerned in the Murder were brought and delivered to me. In the early part of Sept. the Indians charged with Wallace's Murder were brought to this place by their tribe; and Judge Thornton having in the meantime returned to Oregon City, I purchased on his account of U. S. Q. M. Dept. at Fort Steilacoom the only store on the Sound the number of blankets promised, and brought them to this place and distributed them myself.

All My request, both with the view to identify the guilty Indians and avoid: the so interposition of an mob and was present on the occasion x x x

But no question has been entertained to my knowledge by any citizen, but that the matter was properly understood.

B. F. Hill
Capt. 1st U.S. Arty
Com. Post

Oregon City, Sept. 18. 1852.

Hon J. P. Gaines

× × × × ×

At the time of the occurrance spoken of by Hon. Thurston, I was Sub Indian Agent of District No 2, and the first part his affirmation is true, viz: "I make it a study to conciliate the Indians × × and the second "× × prejudice them against our government × × ×" is probably in the same category of the stories of Baron Munchausen and the travels of Lemuel Gulliver. I resided in Oregon before either Mr. Thurston or Bryant came to the country; but, I have never before heard of an attempt on the part of the H.B. Coy. or of any of its officers "to prejudice the Indians" against our people or gov. " × × The blankets were delivered by my order, but I have never given me any order upon the subject of this murder. I know not that he ever conversed with me upon the subject of the Murder previous to the taking of the offenders. The apprehension of the murderers and the means by which it was accomplished, were the result of my own conviction of duty and upon my own responsibility. The reward was offered by me, the Indians were hungry, and the reward paid by my order before Gov.

Lane knew that I had done or even contemplated doing anything in this matter, # The facts connected with the subject of the means by which the Indians were secured are substantially these: I had held a talk at Fort Nisqually with the principal Chiefs of the offending tribe in August, 1849 I informed them that, if they would deliver up the murderers within two weeks (for such I named) I would give to them a reward of 80 blankets. I stated however that I would not pay that price immediately, but that I would place the blankets in charge of Capt. Hill of the Artillery, or in that of Dr Tolmie of Fort Nisqually, one of which gentlemen would pay them the blankets upon the surrender of the murderers to Capt. Hill. I returned to Oregon City, & some time in Sept. 1849, I received a letter from Dr Tolmie & & informing me that he had delivered the blankets to Capt. Hill, and at the same time Capt. Hill sent me that he had received the blankets, I procured there ~~80~~ blankets of the H.B.Coy. because I could get them 200 per cent cheaper than of Americans, and then the cost of carriage, would have been equal to, or nearly so, to the price of purchase.

I have the honor & &

J. Quinn Thornton

Copies relating to Articles

Deposited in State Archives.

Hon. H.W. Shipley

Tonnage, Photographs.

Communication

Mr President and Gentlemen of the Joint Convention:

On behalf of numerous citizens of Oregon, I am commissioned to present to the Legislature through the medium of the Legislative Assembly, a most interesting memento of early history.

The Whitman Massacre - from which originated the Cayuse War - will ever remain a tragic page upon the record of our Territorial existence and offers a striking example of the superstition and malignant treachery of Indian character. Dr. Whitman and his family, resigning all the comforts and privileges of the Eastern home had, made a home, as Missionaries with the Cayuse Tribe on the Walla Walla river. A residence of 12 years had effected much good among them, and seemed to have gained as it deserved, their affection and respect, and many among the Indians, appeared to understand and appreciate the principles of Christianity.

But superstition and treachery prevailed over Christian teachings; and Dr Whitman and his family fell victims to savage hate. Their names have an honored place in the memories of our people, and their death was avenged in many conflicts.

This tomahawk, which I have present, is known to be the very instrument used to commit the bloody act of their massacre, a generation since, and has been purchased as a memento to be treasured in the Archives of the State. A relic of the dangers that beset the early settlers, and speaking the sad fate that befell one of the most unselfish and self sacrificing of our race. ---

This tomahawk has been treasured by the savages themselves as a memorable thing, by the Cayuses, it was presented to their ally "Stock Whitley" a distinguished chief; and one of the bravest warriors that fought us in the Indians wars east of the Mountains, and when he fell on his last battle path, battling, beside the white man against our common enemy, the Snakes, the old Chief left it as an heirloom to his name and race.

From the family of Stock Whitley, it came to the possession of Wm. Logan, Esq, of the Dalles,

who presented it to the Sanitary Cause, and after being the means of raising near $100, for the relief of the sick and wounded of the soldiers fighting the battles of the nation in the fields, it came at last into the possession of the Stat, to suggest to coming generations, the perils they escaped.

Accompanying it is the photograph of Stock Whitley, and the ornamented pouch he used to wear.

I am &c.

H. N. Shipley.

This tomahawk pipe was procured by Tam-mahaw the big murderer, from the Sioux Indians, and afterwards used by him at the murder of Dr. Whitman, and was the instrument of Dr. Whitman's death. Tam-ma-haw, was hung at Oregon City for this murder and the tomahawk was inherited by his brother Stanch who presented it to the Chief Stock Whitley, as an extraordinary token of esteem.

The undersign has heard Stock Whitley tell the history of the Pipe, and he was acknowledged to be a truthful Indian.

In the commencement of this season, Stock Whitly, carried it with him, when he went to war

with the Snakes, and was in the first battle with the Snakes, when Lieut. Watson was killed outright and Lieut. Whitty was mortally wounded.

The Pipe, after the death of Lieut. Whitty, was presented by his family to Donald McKay who presented it to Wm. Logan.

Wm. C. McKay
Physician at Warm Springs Reservation

Warm Springs Agency,
August 31st 1864.